Local Frank:

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The French Consular Posts in the Romanian Principalities and Dobrudja

By George Pataki
Romanian Philatelic Club

"Gli uffici postali civili francosi all'estero" (The French Civilian Post Offices Abroad), by Luigi Grippa (of Grenoble, France), published in "Boletino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale" (No. 25 of Feb. 1982), contains information useful to Romanian specialists. This article describes the use of small-numeral and large-numeral rhomboid postmarks used by French posts in various countries.

The Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 presents these on pages 530-531 as well as the circular postal markings used by French consular posts on Romanian territories. The summary below is distilled from these two sources.

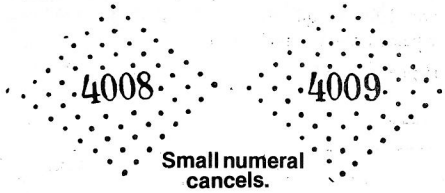
Stamps Used

During the classical period, the French foreign offices used French stamps of the following issues: 3rd issue (Empire imperf.) of 1853; 4th issue (Empire perf.) of 1862; 5th issue (Empire with laurels) of 1863-71; 7th issue (Siege of Paris) of 1870-71; 8th issue (Bordeaux) of 1870; and 9th issue (Ceres) of 1875-76.

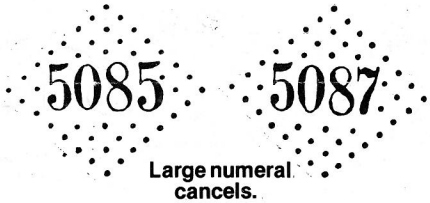
Postmarks Used

To obliterate the stamps, rhomboid cancellers were used, each comprising a number of dots with numerals signifying the locality of use in the center. Those with small numerals (4mm. in height) consist of 56 dots and were used from 1862 to 1876. Those with large numerals (6-7mm. in height) consist of 42 dots and were used from 1862 to 1876. To supplement these "killers," triple circle dated cancels were struck on the front of covers. The outermost circle of these is made up of dots. These cancels' diameters varied according to the period and location. Starting with April 1876, the stamps themselves were obliterated with circular dated cancels.

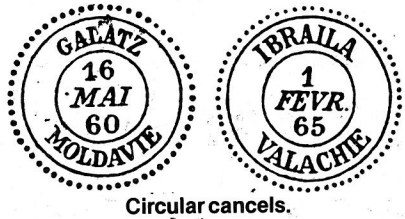
Two French consular post offices existed in the Romanian Principalities (under Turkish suzerainty) in GALATZ (Galati) and in IBRAILA (Braila), each operating from 1855 to 1866. Dobrudja, then part of the Ottoman Empire, had three such offices—in SULINA, TULSCHA (Tulca) and KUSTENDJE (Constanta)—operating from 1853 to 1875. The



Small numeral cancels.



Large numeral cancels.



Circular cancels.

following table shows the "small" and "large" numeral markings, the numbers indicating the respective localities, and their scarcity coefficients:

Locality	Small numerals	Large numerals	Scarcity
GALATZ	4008	5085	1.0 R
IBRAILA	4009	5087	1.5 R
SULINA	4015	5099	3-4 R
TULSCHA	4017	5102	2.0 R
KUSTENDJE	—	5139	4.0 R

Inscriptions	Scarcity
GALATZ-MOLDAVIE	1.0 R
IBRAILA-VALACHIE	1.5 R
SULINA-TURQ. D'EUROPE	4.0 R
TULSCHA-TURQ. D'EUROPE	2.0 R
KUSTENDJE-TURQUIE	4.0 R

The KUSTENDJE-TURQUIE marking is a double circle type with diameters measuring 22 mm. and 14mm.

The Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 states that the rhombuses' diagonals measure 23 and 27 mm. and that the triple circle type markings have diameters measuring 24, 20 (I measured 21mm.) and 12mm. The circular markings, with the date in the center on three lines, have the following inscriptions and scarcity coefficients:

Postal Rates

During the period of use of the stamps of the imperforate Empire issue, a single-weight ordinary letter cost 50¢ to mail. The 50¢ total was almost always realized by adding a 10¢ stamp and two 20¢ stamps, although sometimes two 5¢ stamps and two 20¢ stamps made it up. The same rate applied during the period of the perforated Empire issue and during part of the time (until 1866) when the Empire with laurels stamps were in use. From 1867, the 5th issue still being in use, and later during the Siege of Paris and the Bordeaux issue periods, the rate changed to 40¢. During the use of the Ceres issue this rate was 40¢ and eventually 30¢.

Mixed Frankings

As the Universal Postal Union had not yet been organized and no postal agreements existed between the various countries, letters which passed through two or more countries, sometimes, but rarely, had to have beside the French stamps also stamps of other countries, such as Greece, Turkey, Egypt, China, Japan, etc. Such covers, being extremely scarce, are also very expensive.

Conclusion

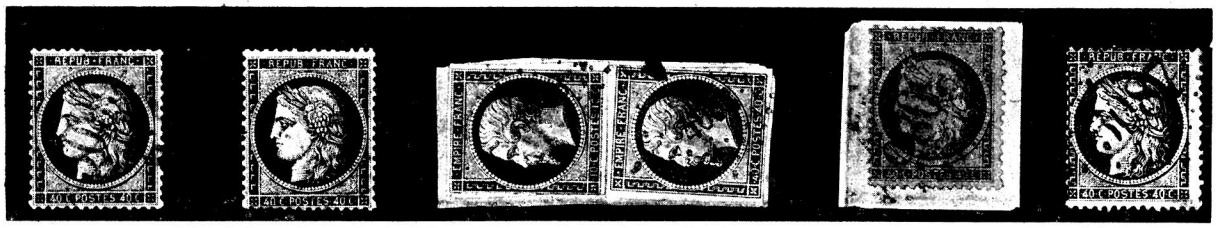
The French consular posts in the Romanian Principalities and Dobrudja did not handle as much mail as the Austrian consular posts did. They serviced even less correspondence than the Greek consular posts.

Collectors should check their French classical stamps to see if they were obliterated with rhomboid cancellers, having any of the numbers listed above or the circular cancellers whose inscriptions prove that they were used in the Romanian Principalities or in Dobrudja. Such items command premium prices. Covers with stamps obliterated with any of the cancellers used by the French consular posts in what today is Romania, should be considered real gems of postal history.

FRANCE USED ABROAD

ROMANIA

Lot		Description	Reference	Evaluation
1636	O	**DOBRUDJA 1870** 40c Ceres with blue G.C. *5099* of Sulina, very scarce, several thins at edges, vf appearing.	#59; Ceres #38; F3,000	$75
1637	O	**40c Ceres with scarce G.C. *5139* of Kustendje, f-vf.**	**#59; Ceres #38; F2,800**	**$260**
1638	△	**MOLDAVIA 1862** 10c and 40c Emperor Napoleon III each tied by blue P.C. *4008* of Galatz to a piece of cvr, nicely struck, f-vf.	#25, 27; Ceres #13, 16; F1,600	$150
1639	△	**1870** 40c Ceres t.t.p. by full blue G.C. *5085* of Galatz, f-vf.	#59; Ceres #38; F650	$70
1640	O	**WALLACHIA 1870** 40c Ceres with brilliant blue G.C. *5087* of Ibraila, f centering but fresh, vf cancel.	#59; Ceres #38; F900	$100



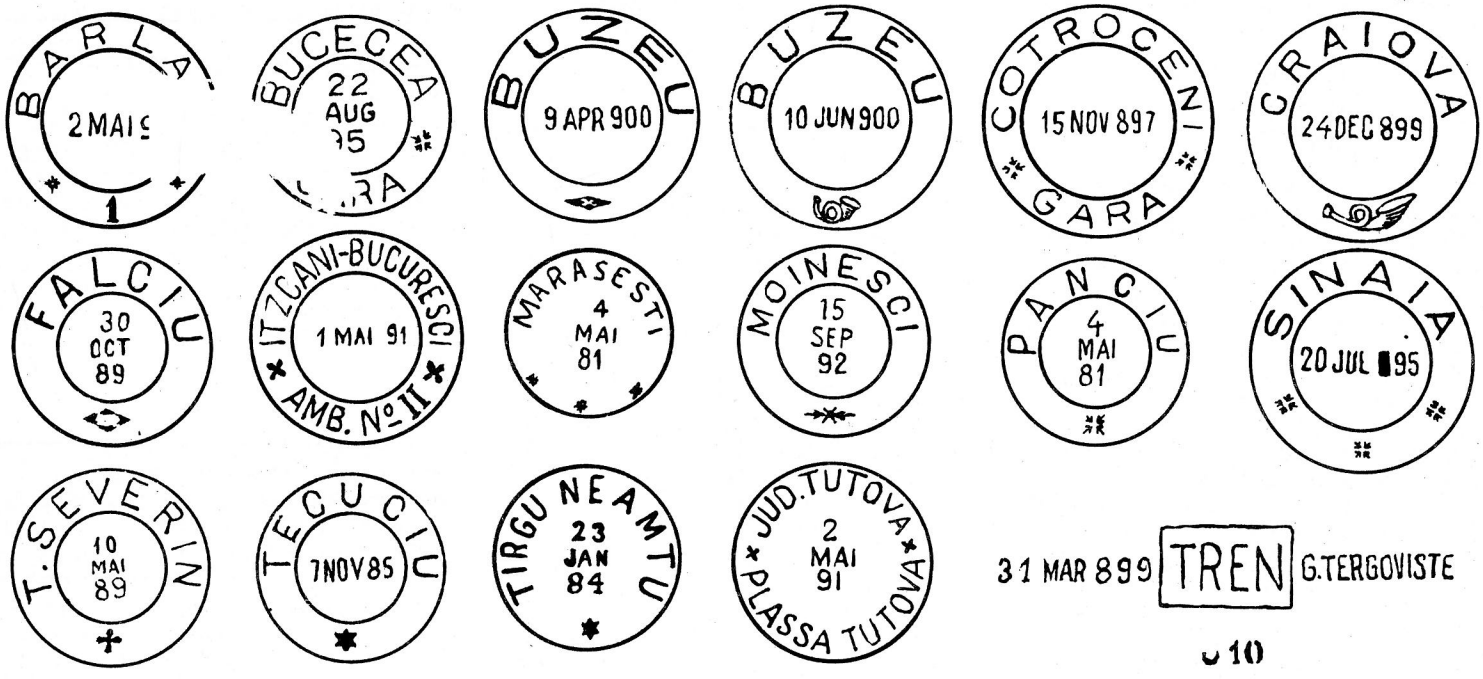
1636 1637 1638 1639 1640

ROMANIA

2458	✉	**1862** 30pa blue on thin wove paper with large to huge margins all around, tied to folded cvr to Bucarest by blue *BRAILA 27 10* cds, bkstd, vf.	#18	$60
2459	✉	**1872** Cvr with 15b vermilion 1869 and 10b orange yellow 1871 Prince Carol imperfs, tied to cvr to Vienna by small *BRAILA 13 JAN 72* cds, insufficiently paid, red bkst, f-vf and attractive.	#40, 44	$250
2463	P	**1903** New Post Office commem imperf proofs on cards, 4 diff values printed in black and another 5l in brown, slight foxing to some, scarce.	#166-7, 9, 70 (2 ×) var	$100

X2463

XIX CENTURY ROMANIAN postal markings.



Local Frankings, 1862-1872

Ionuț Plaiu, Aleea Rotunda No.1, B1.Y.1.B, sc.1, apt.38, 74608 Bucharest, Romania.

In accord with the Ministry of Finance's decision (No. 7390 of April 27, 1862), a new postal tariff was introduced in the United Principalities, starting May 1, 1862. Besides providing for a substantial reduction of the postal rates, the new law established a 6 Parale rate for locally mailed letters. As a direct result of this decision, the "Atelierul Timbrului" (Stamp Works) printed 6 Parale stamps to be used on letters mailed locally.

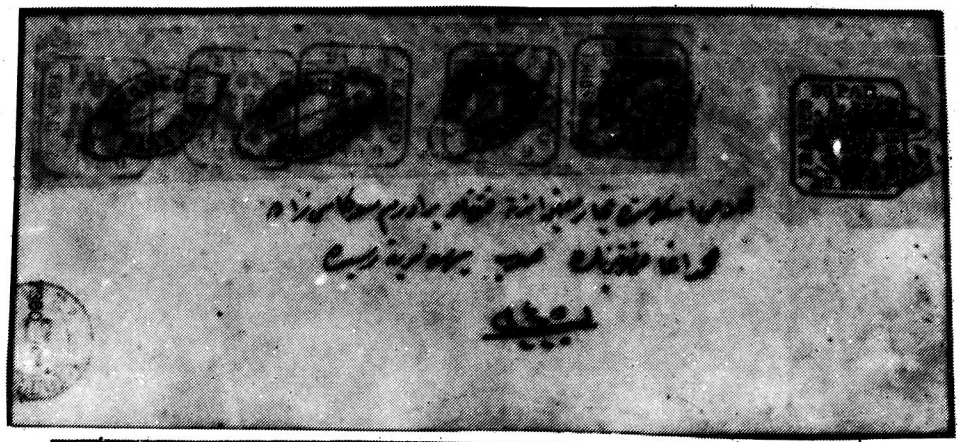
Fig. 1.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

The special rate for local letters was further reduced to 5 Parale by A. I. Cuza's decree No. 1347 of Dec. 1864) which lasted until Jan. 20, (Feb. 1, according to the Gregorian calendar), 1868. From Jan. 20 (Feb. 1), 1868, to Oct. 3 (15), 1870, Cociu, Postmaster General of the Romanian posts, set the local rate at 4 Bani. From Oct. 3 (15), 1870 to Oct. 1872 (when the "Carol with Sideburns" and "Carol with Beard" stamps were replaced by the "Paris" issue), local letters cost 5 Bani to mail (Postmaster-General Zissu's tariff).

In the 1862-1872 period, correspondence between individuals in the same locality was unusual. More commonly, letters were addressed locally to government personalities or institutions. The greater part of local mail service for individuals was performed not by the posts but by agents or servants. These presented the advantage of being able to hand over written messages directly to the addressee, and, if required, to take back immediate replies. While official correspondence of various ministries and government institutions was retained in archives, mail received by citizens was rarely saved. Romanian covers, used locally in the 1862-1872 period, are thus extremely scarce and seldom found even in large collection or auctions.



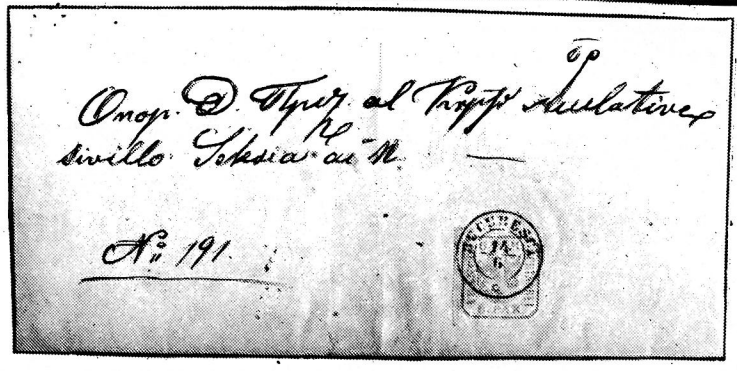


Fig. 4.

6 Parale, 1872, United Principalities. Scott #12, 16, 17.

In 2½ years, 242,678 of the 6 Parale stamps were used (all the statistical data for this article was taken from the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974), a rate of nearly 100,000 per year. Although this quantity is not too large if it is borne in the mind that periodically various localities' post offices ran out of the (domestic rate) 30 Parale stamps and/or had large stocks of 6 Parale stamps; there was no great public demand for these local rate stamps, but nevertheless they had to be sold, and thus very often instead of the required 30 Parale stamps five or even ten (Fig. 1) 6 Parale stamps were affixed on covers. Fig. 2 shows an example of use of the 6 and 30 Parale stamps on the same cover. This then is the reason for the use of so many 6 Parale stamps.

Some 6 Parale stamps were also bisected (Fig. 3) on newspapers, or as whole stamps when mailing two papers together. The scarcest combination use of all is when the 6 Parale stamps are mixed with 3 Parale stamps to make up the 30 Parale domestic rate. While many large Romanian collections display covers with five 6 Parale stamps, extremely few can show locally mailed letters with single 6 Parale stamps, (Fig. 4) which accords with their intended use.

Auctioned off by Robson Lowe in 1966, the Leon collection contained about 100 Romanian covers used in the 1858-1872 period (with five Moldavia, 1st issue, stamps on covers), among them one with a strip of five 6 Parale, and two newspaper fragments with bisects. The H. Kohler auction (Oct. 11-14, 1978) of the Sladowsky collection featured three covers, each with five 6 Parale stamps. In recent years, several covers each

with five 6 Parale stamps, appeared at various auctions. However, cover with single 6 Parale stamps did not show up, with the exception of lot 7385 (obliterated with a "BUDEU 13/3" marking) in the Roger Koerber auction of June 4-5, 1980.

5 Parale, 1865, Cuza. Scott #23.

Unfortunately, we have usage data only for Bucharest and at that only for 1865. During that year, the following quantities of stamps were sold: 5 Parale 6,710; 2 Parale 152,736; 20 Parale 111,717. The 2 Parale was sold in such large numbers because they were used on newspapers, and at that time, the majority were published in Bucharest. A large number of the 5 Parale stamps were used on covers with domestic, but not local, destinations, the 20 Bani rate being made up with four 5 Parale stamps. As example we know of a cover bearing a strip of four 5 Parale stamp cancelled with "Draperie de Iasi, 3/3/1865" (in the collection of the Romanian Academy), and a cover with a strip of four such stamps, cancelled with a B. 12 type grid killer marking, mailed from Braila (recently bought by a German collector).

Covers locally mailed with single 5 Parale - 1865 Cuza stamps, are very scarce.

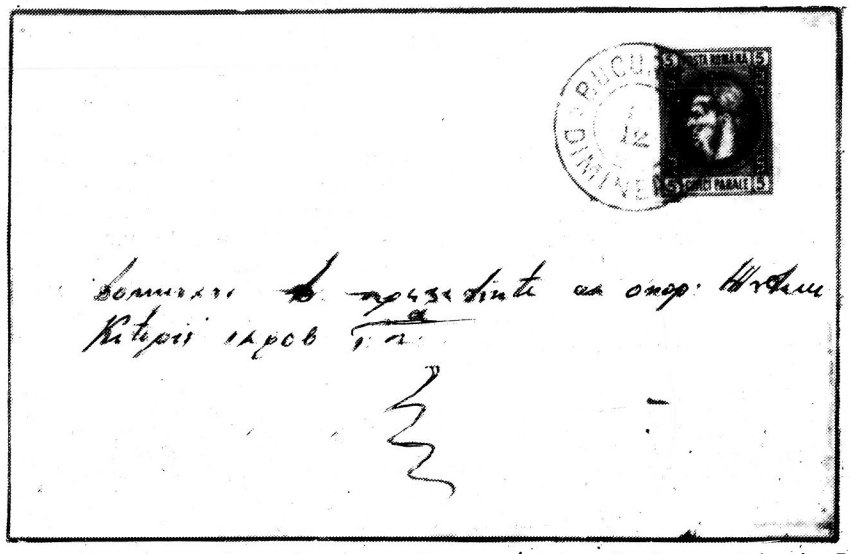


Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

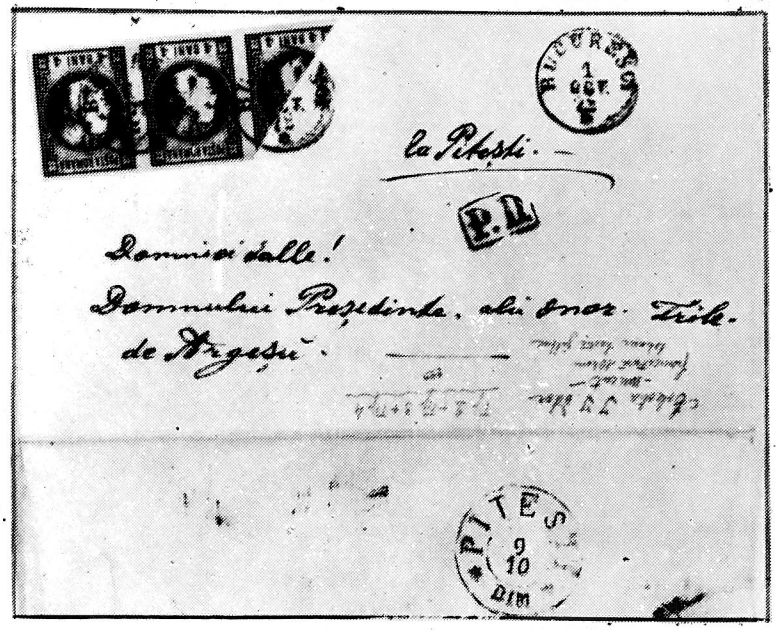


Fig. 7.

5 Parale, 1866, Carol with Sideburns, Thick Paper (Scott # 30b)

5 Parale, 1867, Carol with Sideburns, Thin Paper (Scott #30).

The 5 Parale "Carol with Sideburns" stamps used as singles on locally mailed cover are slightly more common than the same stamps used four at a time. Thus, they were more often used for the purpose for which they were issued than the previously described stamps covering the rate for local mail. Nevertheless, covers with single 5 Parale stamps (Fig. 5), as well as with multiples remain quite scarce.

4 Bani, 1868, Carol with Sideburns. Scott #35.

The following number of 4 Bani stamps were sold: 36,698 in 1868 and 76,769 in 1869. From 1868 until Oct. 3 (15), 1870, when the postal rate for domestic letters was reduced from from 18 to 10 Bani, 4 Bani stamps were used in various combinations on domestic letters. Examples include a strip of four 4 Bani stamps and one 2 Bani stamps (see "The 1868 Issue" by L. N. Cristea, R. P. S., No. 3/1979, page 15, fig. 9) and a pair of 4 Bani of the 1869 issue (Fig. 6). After Oct. 1870, 4 Bani stamps were not used as often on domestic letters; sometimes to make up the 10 Bani rate, a pair of 4 Bani plus a half of the same stamps (Fig. 7), or a pair of 3 Bani (1870 issue) plus a 4 Bani were used.

The number of the 4 Bani used on local mail (Fig. 8) is very small but such are not quite as rere as the previously presented local rate stamps. In the I. Odor collection of 400 covers, used from 1862 to 1872, only two are locally used with single 4 Bani stamps.

5 Bani, 1869, 1871 and 1872, Carol Scott #37, 43, 50

These stamps used on local mail are also scarce. About 95% of these stamps were used on receipts, return receipts, or in pairs on domestically mailed letters. The 5 Bani, 1869 "Carol with Sideburns" is know on local covers but these are scarce. The E Cohen collection contained a 5 Bani, 1871 "Carol with Beard," used as a single, not on a letter, but rather on printed matter mailed abroard. Of the 5 Bani, 1872 "Carol with Beard," I could not find any on locally used covers, in any collection or listed in any auction catalogue, nor even on a return receipt.

Illustrating the scarcity of locally mailed covers, is the Dr. A. Weiss collection. A gold medal and Grand Prix winner at Interpex New York, 1964, it was sold in 1972 by W. Balasse. This collection contained, amongst other rarities, a 27 Parale on cover; a 54 Parale; a 5 Parale with unbroken frame, on blueish paper; a cover with five 6 Parale; full sheets and covers with classical stamps. Yet it contained not one single locally mailed cover. The Sladowsky collection contained 180 prephilatelic and classical covers, including 15 covers with the first issue, three covers, each with five stamps, but not one single locally mailed covers.

The table below presents an inventory of covers with 6 Parale, 1862; 5 Parale, 1865, Cuza; 5 Parale, 1866, 1867, Carol; 4 Bani, 1868, Carol; 5 Bani, 1868, 1871, and 1872, Carol stamps contained in three of the richest collection of Romanian classical

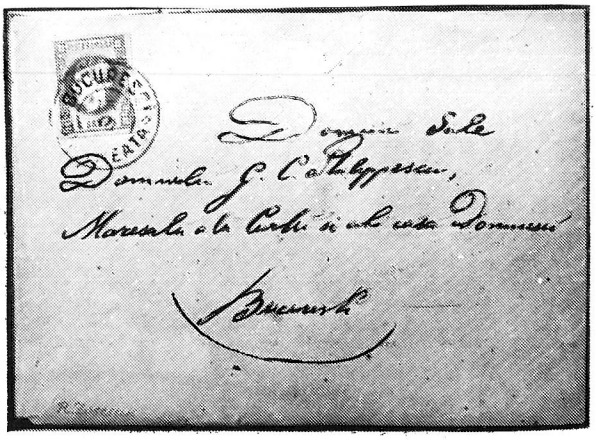


Fig. 8.

Collection		COHEN	LEON	ODOR	Total
Letters with:	Total no. of letters 1862-72	279	72	425	776
6 PAR. 1862	local letters	3	—	—	3
	5X6PARALE	6	1	—	7
5 PAR. 1865	local letters	—	1	—	1
	4X5PARALE	5	—	—	5
5 PAR. 1866 &67	local letters	2	—	1	3
	4X5PARALE	2	—	—	2
4 BANI 1868	local letters	4	—	2	6
	in mixed frankings	2	1	2	5
5 BANI 1869	local letters	3	—	—	3
	in multiples or mixed frankings	—	1	2	3
	on postal receipts	4	4	8	16
5 BANI 1871	local letters	—	—	—	—
	in multiples or mixed frankings	4	2	1	7
	on postal receipts	13	5	34	52
5 BANI 1872	locals letters	—	—	—	—
	in multiples or mixed frankings	6	—	3	9
	on postal receipts	—	—	—	—

stamps ever assembled, demonstrating once again the scarcity of locally mailed covers.

REVIEW:

Filatelia si Turismul

(Philately and Tourism)

Published in Romanian language in 1981, 147 pages, 15.5 Lei, hard covers, well printed and richly illustrated with black & white pictures. The authors, Dr. Apostol Turbatu, the president of A.F.R., and, Dr. Nicolae Neagu, the chief editor of Filatelia, are well informed on philatelic matters. They have presented a wealth of information on a great number of philatelic items (stamps, maximum cards, postal stationery) which illustrate subjects closely or remotely related to Romanian tourist attractions. The book is especially useful to topical collectors and researchers.

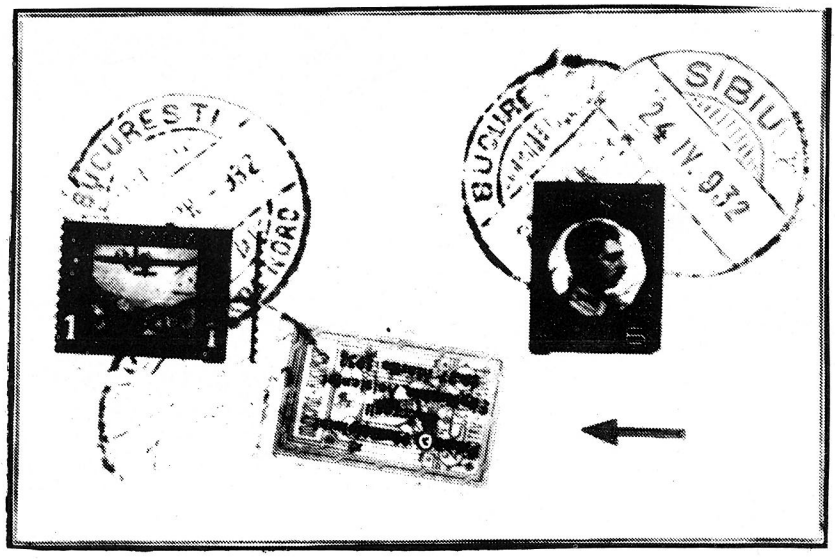
Another Revenue Stamp for the Unemployed

Mircea Teleguț, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timisoara, Romania

In "For the Unemployed" published in Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 4/1981, I described a revenue stamp issued by the municipality of Timisoara to collect funds for helping the unemployed.

Recently, on a cover sent from "BUCURESTI - GARA DE NORD" *(on "24 APR - 932")* to "SIBIU" *(arrived on "24 IV. 932")*, I found a revenue stamp issued for the same purpose - but by the city of Bucharest. The stamp is violet on white paper, measures 18 by 30 mm., and is perf. 13½. Its top reads: "MUNICIPIUL BUCURESTI" *(Municipality of Bucharest)*, while the center shows a coat-of-arms with an eagle holding in its claws a ribbon inscribed with King Carol II's slogan "PATRIA SI DREPTUL MEU" *(Motherland and my right)*, and its bottom reads "2 LEI 2 PENTRU SOMEURI" *(2 Lei 2 For the Unemployed)*.

The stamp also displays a four-line black overprint, printed vertically reading up: "Primaria Minicipiului/Bucuresti/Saptamana Asistentei/20-27 Martie 1932" *(The Mayorality of the Municipality of Bucharest Assistance Week March 20-27 Martie 1932)*, shown here separately for a better presentation.



Primăria Municipiului
București
Săptămâna Asistenței
20-27 Martie 1932

This type of revenue stamp was affixed on official documents, such as petitions, contracts, etc., as well as on mail, both private and of the municipality.

It is worth noticing the off-centerred "TIMBRUL AVIATIEI" with a considerable horizontal shift to the viewer's left.

New Data on Romanian Maritime Service

SILVIU DRAGOMIR, Str. Biserica Popa Chitu No. 17, 70268 Bucharest, Romania.

In the official archives, no information can be found either on the activities of "S. M. R.," the "Serviciul Maritim Roman" (Romanian Maritime Service), or on the structure of the maritime postal service. Due to lack of the primary sources, it is necessary to check secondary sources, such as information scattered in yearbooks, publicity booklets, and even in newspaper advertisements. These give "sketches" of the situations in various periods. The more these bits and pieces can be discovered, the more we can learn about the S. M. R.'s entire operation, from beginning to end.

The specialized philatelic literature has so far recorded the following sources of information: S. M. R. Guide of 1912; Cook Guide of 1934 and Romania, Guide of 1940.

Recently I found a schedule (illustrated below) of S. M. R. vessels, and of the trains connecting with them. It was first printed in a 1909 "Lupta," a Romanian language newspaper published in Budapest, Hungary. The vessels and trains it concerns also carried mail, and thus are important for postal historians.

The subtitle's translation reads: "Schedule of Vessels on the Eastern Route from Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 1909 (the dates are according to old style)." Despite the very short time covered by this schedule, it is typical and we can draw important conclusions as far as the vessels, their routes, schedules, speed, etc., are concerned. Here are some of them:

-The following seagoing vessels are listed: "Principesa Maria," "Imparatul Traian," "Dacia" and "Romania."

-The time from one port to another, the same for all S.M.R. vessels, was as follows:

Constanta - Contantinopie 12 hours,
Contantinople - Smyrna 18 hours,
Smyrna - Alexandria 36 hours,
Alexandria - Smyrna 36 hours,
Smyrna - Constantinople 21 hours,
Constantinople - Constanta 12 hours,

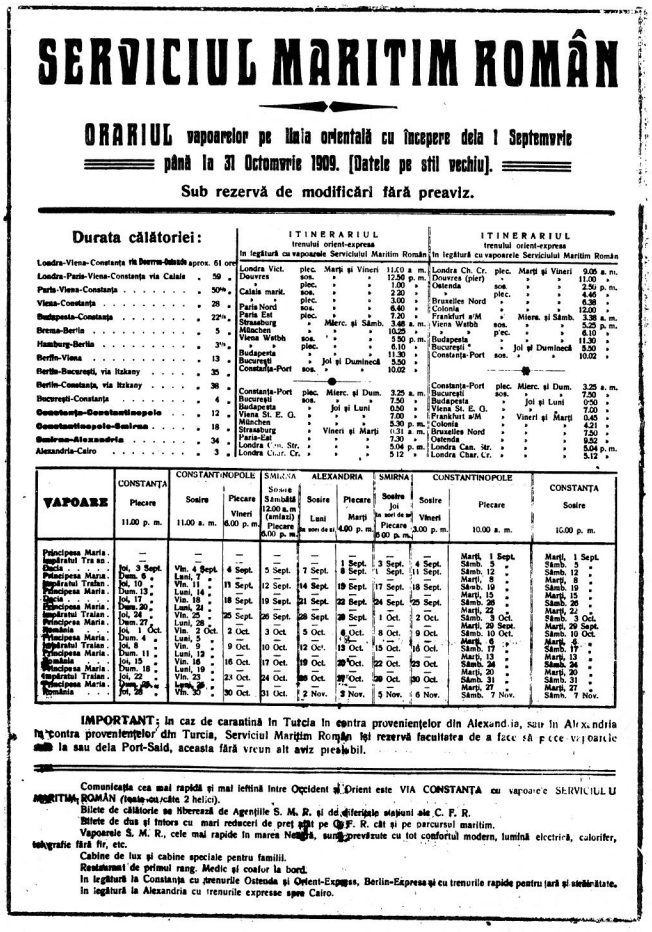
— The S. M. R. vessels made connections in Constanta with the Ostende, Orient-Express and Berlin-Express trains, as well as other express trains to Romania and foreign destinations. In Alexandria, they made connection with the express trains to Cairo.

-The "Principessa Maria" left Constanta every Sunday, at 11:00P.M. and arrived at Constantinople Monday morning at 11:00 A.M., arriving in Constanta at 10:00P.M. the same day. Thus, it ran only on the Constanta-Constantinople route.

— The other three vessels each ran the entire route; their schedules can be seen on the time table.

— The various train connections are listed with their itineraries.

What the vessels did while not on scheduled voyage is not known, perhaps they were in for maintenance or were chartered out.



SERVICIUL MARITIM ROMÂN

ORARIUL vapoarelor pe linia orientală cu începere dela 1 Septemvrie până la 31 Octomvrie 1909. [Datele pe stil vechiu].

Sub rezervă de modificări fără preaviz.

Durata călătoriei:

Londra-Viena-Constanța via Boulogne-Calais	aprox. 61 ore
Londra-Paris-Viena-Constanța via Calais	59 »
Paris-Viena-Constanța	50⅝ »
Viena-Constanța	26 »
Budapesta-Constanța	22½ »
Brema-Berlin	5 »
Hamburg-Berlin	3¼ »
Berlin-Viena	13 »
Berlin-București, via Itzkany	35 »
Berlin-Constanța, via Itzkany	38 »
București-Constanța	4 »
~~Constanța-Constantinopole~~	12 »
~~Constantinopole-Smirna~~	18 »
~~Smirna-Alexandria~~	34 »
Alexandria-Cairo	3 »

ITINERARIUL trenului orient-express în legătură cu vapoarele Serviciului Maritim Român

Londra Vict.	plec.	Marți și Vineri	11.40 a. m.
Douvres	sos.	» »	12.50 p. m.
	plec.	» »	1.00 »
Calais mar.	sos.	» »	2.20 »
	plec.	» »	3.00 »
Paris Nord	sos.	» »	6.40 »
Paris Est	plec.	» »	7.20 »
Strassburg	»	Mierc. și Sâmb.	3.48 a. m.
München	»	» »	10.25 »
Viena Wstbh	sos.	» »	7.50 p. m.
	plec.	» »	8.10 »
Budapesta	»	» »	11.30 »
București	»	Joi și Duminecă	3.50 »
Constanța-Port	sos.	» »	10.02 »

ITINERARIUL trenului orient-express în legătură cu vapoarele Serviciului Maritim Român

Londra Ch. Cr.	plec.	Marți și Vineri	9.05 a. m.
Douvres (pier)	»	» »	11.00 »
Ostenda	sos.	» »	2.50 p. m.
	plec.	» »	4.46 »
Bruxelles Nord	»	» »	6.38 »
Colonia	»	» »	12.00 »
Frankfurt a/M	»	Miers. și Sâmb.	3.38 a. m.
Viena Wstbh	sos.	» »	5.35 p. m.
	p'ec.	» »	6.10 »
Budapesta	»	» »	11.30 »
București	»	Joi și Duminecă	8.50 »
Constanța-Port	sos.	» »	10.02 »

Constanța-Port	plec.	Mierc. și Dum.	3.25 a. m.
București	sos.	» »	7.50 »
Budapesta	»	Joi și Luni	0.50 »
Viena St. E. G.	»	» »	7.00 »
Frankfurt a/M	»	Vineri și Marți	0.45 »
Colonia	»	» »	4.21 »
Bruxelles Nord	»	» »	7.50 »
Ostenda	»	» »	9.52 »
Londra Can. Str.	»	» »	5.04 p. m.
Londra Char. Cr.	»	» »	5.12 »

VAPOARE	CONSTANȚA	CONSTANTINOPOLE		SMIRNA	ALEXANDRIA		SMIRNA	CONSTANTINOPOLE	CONSTANȚA
	Plecare	Sosire	Plecare	Sosire	Sosire	Plecare	Sosire	Plecare	Sosire
	11.00 p. m.	11.00 a. m.	Vineri 6.00 p. m.	Sâmbătă 12.00 a. m. (amiazi) Plecare 6.00 p. m.	Luni de sosire 4.00 p. m.	Marți	Joi în sosire 3.00 p. m.	Vineri 10.00 a. m.	10.00 p. m.
Principesa Maria	—	—	—	—	—	1 Sept.	—	—	—
Imperatul Traian	Joi, 3 Sept.	Vin. 4 Sept.	4 Sept.	5 Sept.	7 Sept.	8 Sept.	9 Sept.	11 Sept.	Marți, 1 Sept.
Dacia	Dum. 6 »	Luni, 7 »	—	—	—	—	—	—	Sâmb. 5 »
Principesa Maria	Joi, 10 »	Vin. 11 »	11 Sept.	12 Sept.	14 Sept.	15 Sept.	16 Sept.	18 Sept.	Sâmb. 12 »
Imperatul Traian	Dum. 13 »	Luni, 14 »	—	—	—	—	—	—	Marți, 8 »
Dacia	Joi, 17 »	Vin. 18 »	18 Sept.	19 Sept.	21 Sept.	22 Sept.	24 Sept.	25 Sept.	Sâmb. 19 »
Principesa Maria	Dum. 20 »	Luni, 21 »	—	—	—	—	—	—	Marți, 15 »
Imperatul Traian	Joi, 24 »	Vin. 25 »	25 Sept.	26 Sept.	28 Sept.	29 Sept.	1 Oct.	2 Oct.	Sâmb. 26 »
Principesa Maria	Dum. 27 »	Luni, 28 »	—	—	—	—	—	—	Marți, 22 »
Romania	Joi, 1 Oct.	Vin. 2 Oct.	2 Oct.	3 Oct.	5 Oct.	6 Oct.	8 Oct.	9 Oct.	Sâmb. 3 Oct.
Principesa Maria	Dum. 4 »	Luni, 5 »	—	—	—	—	—	—	Marți, 29 Sept.
Imperatul Traian	Joi, 8 »	Vin. 9 »	9 Oct.	10 Oct.	12 Oct.	13 Oct.	15 Oct.	16 Oct.	Sâmb. 10 Oct.
Principesa Maria	Dum. 11 »	Luni, 12 »	—	—	—	—	—	—	Marți, 6 »
Dacia	Joi, 15 »	Vin. 16 »	16 Oct.	17 Oct.	19 Oct.	20 Oct.	22 Oct.	23 Oct.	Sâmb. 17 »
Principesa Maria	Dum. 18 »	Luni, 19 »	—	—	—	—	—	—	Marți, 13 »
Imperatul Traian	Joi, 22 »	Vin. 23 »	23 Oct.	24 Oct.	26 Oct.	27 Oct.	29 Oct.	30 Oct.	Sâmb. 24 »
Principesa Maria	Dum. 25 »	Luni, 26 »	—	—	—	—	—	—	Marți, 20 »
Romania	Joi, 29 »	Vin. 30 »	30 Oct.	31 Oct.	2 Nov.	3 Nov.	5 Nov.	6 Nov.	Sâmb. 31 »
									Marți, 27 »
									Sâmb. 7 Nov.

IMPORTANT: In caz de carantină în Turcia în contra proveniențelor din Alexandria sau în Alexandria în contra proveniențelor din Turcia, Serviciul Maritim Român își rezervă facultatea de a face să plece vapoarele sale la sau dela Port-Said, aceasta fără vreun alt aviz prealabil.

Comunicația cea mai rapidă și mai leftină între Occident și Orient este VIA CONSTANȚA cu vapoarele SERVICIULUI MARITIM ROMÂN (toate cu câte 2 helici).
Bilete de călătorie se liberează de Agențiile S. M. R. și de diferitele stațiuni ale C. F. R.
Bilete de dus și întors cu mari reduceri de preț atât pe C. F. R. cât și pe parcursul maritim.
Vapoarele S. M. R., cele mai rapide în marea Neagră, sunt prevăzute cu tot confortul modern, lumină electrică, calorifer, telegrafie fără fir, etc.
Cabine de lux și cabine speciale pentru familii.
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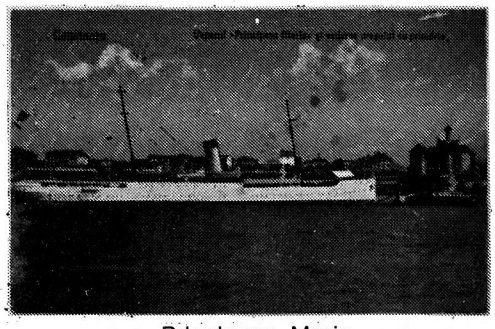
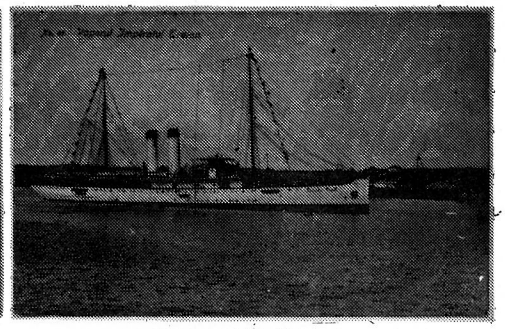
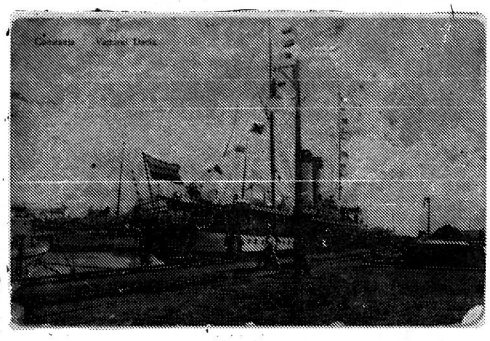
În legătură la Constanța cu trenurile Ostende și Orient-Express, Berlin-Express și cu trenurile rapide pentru țară și străinătate.
În legătură la Alexandria cu trenurile expresse spre Cairo.



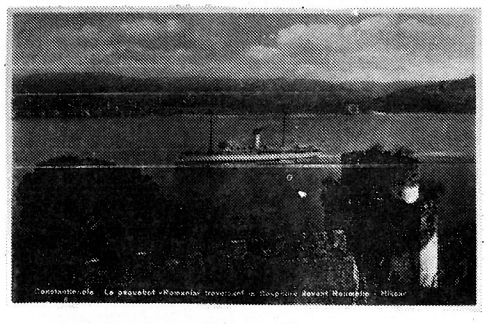
Principesa Maria



Imparatul Traian



Dacia



Romania

By matching dates found on various shipboard cancellations with schedules of S.M.R. vessels, we can identify which markings were used on each vessel. The dates and the identified markings are helpful in expertizing philatelic items bearing S.M.R. maritime cancels.

COMMENTS on published articles can be sent directly to the authors.

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Romania's Censorship Of Post Card Pictures

By MIRCEA TELEGUȚ

While Romanian postal stationery, with few exceptions, was issued only by postal authorities, picture post cards were printed by private companies. During times of war, the content of all types of mail was censored. Shortly after the wars, censorship of correspondence usually ended.

It is little known that censorship also existed of photographs on the backs of picture postcards to insure that no military objectives, such as barracks, railway stations, bridges, public buildings, etc., were illustrated on them. Censor markings were applied on the cards, usually on the correspondence side, but sometimes on the illustrated side.

The markings were applied with round or rectangular-shaped rubber handstamps; without such markings, picture postcards could not be sold to the public. The Ministry of Information was in charge of this censorship and the county authorities were charged with carrying it out.

The following such markings have been identified:

1. Single circle, 17 mm in diameter, reading: "MINISTERUL INFORMATILOR INSPECT. JUD. CONSTANTA" (Figure 1) applied in violet on an illustrated card sent from Ocna Sibiului (July 18, 1949) to Timișoara arriving July 20, 1949. The card, printed in Constanta by "Albania" printers, proves that censorship of photographs was done

Figure 1.

in the locality where the card was printed, and not where sold or used.

2. Similar, with identical text, but 20 mm. in diameter, found on a picture post card also printed by "Albania" printers in Constanța, mailed from Arad to Timișoara on May 28, 1950.

3. Similar, found on a picture postcard printed by M. C. Florescu in Constanța, showing a view of the city of Lugoj, mailed from Lugoj to Brașov on July 3, 1949.

4. Single circle administrative marking, 20 mm. in diameter, applied on the illustrated side of a card showing "Piața Unirii" (Union Square) in Deva. The text reads: "ROMANIA Prefectura JUD. Junedoara". The country's coat-of-arms is in its center. The card was printed by "Librăria Românească" in Deva.

Figure 2.

5. Double circle, about 19 mm. in diameter, with text: "CENZURAT Regionala de Informații Sibiu" (Figure 2), found on an unused picture postcard printed by Progresul in Sibiu, showing a view of that city.

6. Double circle, 23 mm. in diameter, applied in violet on a picture postcard inscribed "No. 8 Caracal — Vedere din Parc" (Caracal — View of the Park). The text reads: "Ministerul Informațiilor — Regionala Craiova". The card was printed in 1945 by M. C. Florescu of Craiova and probably censored immediately thereafter. It was mailed in 1950 from Caracal to Timișoara.

Figure 3.

7. Double circle, 22 mm. in diameter, with the text: "Romania MINISTERUL INFORMATIILOR Regionala Craiova" (Figure 3) on a used picture postcard.

Figure 4.

8. Single circle administrative marking, 22 mm. in diameter, with the text: "Romania Prefectura Jud. C.-lung" (Figure 4) applied in violet on an unused picture postcard. The printer's location is not known.

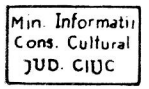

Figure 5.

9. Rectangular, 18 by 11 mm., applied in red, with the text: "MIN. INFORMATII Cons. Cultural JUD. CIUC" (Figure 5) The inscription on the card is in Hungarian.

The dates of use of these postcards, as shown by postmarks or in the written messages, could be misleading, suggesting that this kind of censorship existed as late as the 1950s. In reality, it was practiced during the war when these cards were printed. After the war, following the nationalization of all printing plants, government authorities made the decision of what to illustrate on picture post cards before printing them. Thus, there was no further need for "post-printing" censorship.

For research purposes I seek Romanian railroad cancellations such as:
POSTA AMBULANTA, AMB. No....
TREN..., GARA..., CFR..., etc.
and/or photocopies of the above.
(expenses reimbursed)
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Romanian Philatelic Studies
QUARTERLY RESEARCH BULLETIN
$10.00/year payable to
ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB
c/o the **EDITOR**

Articles for the bulletin

The readers are invited to send the editor original research articles. Short notes or lengthy studies are equally welcome. Good illustrations are important. Articles sent in Romanian language will be translated by the editor.

Postal Forgery of Romania, Scott #326

George Pataki

Most of the faked stamps are philatelic forgeries made with the intent to swindle the stamp collector. Sometimes however, forgers print stamps to be used for postage, thus defrauding the postal administration and, consequently the government. These stamps are usually sold at below their face value to large users or, in complicity with dishonest postal employees or people connected with stores authorized to sell postal effects, they are sold directly to the public who then use them for postage, and thus, unknowingly and unwittingly contribute to the defrauding of their government.

Such postal forgeries are usually definitive stamps because these are used in larger quantities and for a longer period of time than the commemoratives. Because the postal forgeries, in even a large scale operation, are usually printed in much smaller numbers than the legitimately printed stamps, they are scarce and highly prized by specialists, especially if they were postally used.

Such a postal forgery is Scott #326 (Michel 326, Yvert #341), 5 lei red brown with the portrait of young King Michael. The original was printed on white, smooth, unwatermarked paper, by the photogravure method. The entire set to which this stamp belongs was designed by Ludovic Basarab and it was printed at the "Fabrica de Timbre" (Stamp Factory) in Bucharest. Out of the entire set, only this stamp was printed with ink which is both soluble in water and sensitive to light. Thus, when this stamp is soaked in water, it loses color. If this stamp is exposed to light, its color will fade. The size of the original stamp, from tip of perforation to tip of perforation, is about 22.5 by 28 mm., with variations due to imperfections in the perforating process. The size of the design is 18.5 by 24.5 mm. The perforation of the original, and this is important, is 13½ to 13¾.

Original

Forgery

The postal forgery was printed on yellowish or greyish, thick, porous paper. The size matches that of the original. The illustration on the forgery is a little less sharp than the one on the original. It seems that it was made by the photolithography process. The color, a close match with the original but slightly lighter, especially the background around the head, is stable and insoluble in water. The perforation of the forgery is around 11½ with wide variations.

The stamp I examined had different perforation on all four sides, varying from 11 to 11¾ so the easiest way to spot a forgery is by its perforation.

This forgery was first reported by Emanuel Leipnik, vice-president of the Philatelic Club of Timisoara, in "Filatelia Pentru Toti" of Feb. 1934, in an article published both in Romanian and German languages, who found forged stamps on covers in the summer of 1929. Initially, he assumed that it was a variety of the official printing but when this was denied by the postal administration he reported it to the authorities as forgery.

The forgery illustrated here was cancelled in August 1928, thus the forgery was made only a short few months after the offical ones, which were issued on March 16, 1928. The locality where this stamp was cancelled can not be established because only the second part of the two-part name (". . . -NOU"), can be seen on it.

Leipnik suspected that the forgery was made somewhere in Northern Transylvania because most of the mail bearing these fake stamps originated from Bihor, Satu-Mare and Maramures counties. Later, George Craiu, another researcher, stated that this forgery was made in the province of Banat.

According to the 1982 Scott, the catalogue price of this Scott #326 is 3¢ used. The forgery would cost at least 200 times that amount. Therefore, this is one of the instances when the forgery costs much more than the original, which is the case with most of the postal forgeries.

Collectors who possess large quantities of the 5 lei King Michel stamp should check them for a perforation difference as perhaps among the many common and cheap originals they may find this desirable postal forgery.

Supplement to the SIGHET 1944 Issue

Mircea Telegut, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timişoara, Romania

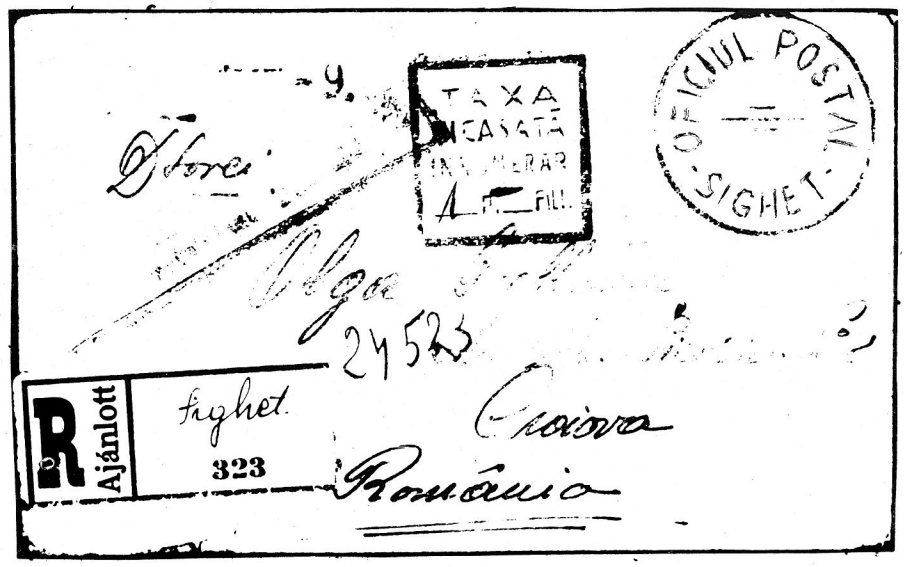
F. Konrad's "Local Issues of Northern Transylvania" *(Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 2/1982)* mentioned application by the Sighet post office of a handstamp on covers in cases when the postage was paid in cash instead by affixing stamps. The marking was not illustrated. Recently I found *(in the collection of Prof. Dr. Petre Cojerean of Timisoara, Romania)* a registered cover bearing this rare marking. The text, in a rectangular frame, 23 by 24 mm., reads: "TAXA INCASATA IN NUMERAR___ P.___FIL!." *(Tax paid in cash___ P.___FIL!.)*; in this instance, a handwritten "1" appears before the letter "P", attesting that 1 Pengo was received.

The upper right corner shows a dateless, single circle marking, 30 mm. in diameter, reading "OFICIUL POSTAL SIGHET" *(Sighet post office)*.

The cover itself is small, 116 by 72 mm., and was mailed registered from Sighet to Craiova. Affixed on the lower left corner is the Hungarian registration label, reading "R Ajanlott 323" with a manuscript "Sighet" spelled in accord with its Romanian orthography. The "12 Cenzurat Turda 12" censor marking indicates that it went through Turda where it was censored.

No dated cancel can be found on the cover, except for "9" which can be seen at the top. This may possibly have been the last digit of a linear date stamp. However, it can be assumed that it was used in 1945 and handled by a Romanian postal clerk who affixed the existing Hungarian registration label but wrote the city's name in Romanian.

Because of the unusual handling it received, this cover, althouth stampless, is a valuable postal history item.



MILITARY CENSOR MARKINGS

SILVIU DRAGOMIR, Str. Biserica Popa Chițu No. 17, 70268 Bucharest, Romania.

Continued from No. 3/1982

Adhesive Labels

Z-302.11.01 CENZURAT/CENZURAT (Aug. 8, 1919)
Z-302.11.11 CENZURAT/CENZURA MILITARA A JUDETULUI../Data.. (May 22, 1917)
Z-302.11.21 CENZURAT/CENZURA MILITARA JUDETULUI ILFOV/Data..(Aug. 29, 1916)

"Z-306" - Censorship in the new Provinces
Romanian Censorship in Transylvania. Linear markings.

Z-306.01.01 CENZURA ROMANA/ALBA JULIA (Apr. 7, 1919)
Z-306.01.02 CENZURA ROMANA/CLUJ (Dec. 29, 1918-Oct. 6, 1919)
Z-306.01.03. Censura ROMANA/din Debretin (May 28, 1919)

Romanian Censorship in Transylvania. Circular markings.

Z-306.11.01. Cenzura Romania/Buzias-Bai (June 13, 1920)
Z-306.11.02.01. CENZURA ROMANA/CLUJ/Sect. II/II (June 10, 1920-July 26, 1920)
Z-306.11.02.02. CENZURA ROMANA/CLUJ/S. II (Apr. 22, 1920)
Z-306.11.03 CENZURA ROMANA/LUGOJ (July 15, 1919)
Z-306.11.04 Cenzura romana Satu-Mare/Romania (June 8, 1919)
Z-306.11.05 CENZURA ROMANA/TIMISOARA (Aug. 3, 1919-March 21, 1920)

Romanian Censorship in Transylvania. Framed linear markings.

Z-306.21.01. CENZURA BISTRITA.. (Sept. 8, 1919)
Z-306.21.02. CENZURA/POSTUL/LUGOJ (March 21, 1920)
Z-306.21.03. CENSURAT OFICIAL/ORADEA MARE (July 10, 1919-Aug. 19,1919)
Z-306.21.04. Cenzura Romana/Satu-Mare (Jan. 12, 1920)

Other Romanian Censorships in Transylvania. Linear markings.

Z-306.31.01. CENZURAT/Arad.. (Sept. 12, 1919-Sept. 22, 1920)
Z-306.31.02. CENZURAT/ Bistrita.. (Sept. 8, 1919)
Z-306.31.03.01. CENZURAT/BLAJ..(May 24, 1920-June 27, 1920)
Z-306.31.03.02. CENZURAT/Blaj..1919 (March 27, 1919)
Z-306.31.04.01. BRASOV/CENZURAT/..1919/Semn... (July 10, 1919-Aug. 19,1919)
Z-306.31.04.02. BRASOV/CENZURAT/Semn../Data.. 1919 (Aug. 15, 1919)
Z-306.31.05 CENZURAT/CAREII MARE (Feb. 8, 1921-Feb. 11, 1921)
Z-306.31.06.01. Cenzurat/Cluj (4.5 x 24mm.) (June 17, 1919-Oct. 12, 1919)
Z-306.31.06.02. Cenzurat/Cluj (6.5 x 30mm.) (Jan. 7,1920)
Z-306.31.07. Cenzurat "OZ"/Dej... (Jan. 19,1920)
Z-306.31.08 CENZURAT/Deva.. (Apr. 19,1920)
Z-306.31.09 Fagaras/Censurat/Data../.. (Sept. 19, 1919)
Z-306.31.10 CENSURAT/LUGOJ (Oct. 18, 1919)
Z-306.31.11.01. Censurat Marul-Roșu.. (Dec. 27, 1919)
Z-306.31.11.02. Censurat Maru Roșu.. (.. 1919)
Z-306.31.12 CSIKSZEREDA/CENZURAT/..1919/Semn... (Dec. 26, 1919-Sept. 19,1921)
Z-306.31.13.01. CENZURAT/Oradea-Mare (..1919)
Z-306.31.13.02. CENZURAT/ORADEA-MARE (Jan. 24, 1920-Apr. 15, 1921)
Z-306.31.14.01. ST. GHEORGHE/CENZURAT/..19/Semn... (June 14, 1920)
Z-306.31.14.02. ST. GHEORGHE/CENZURAT/..1919 (Dec. 10, 1919)
Z-306.31.15.01. SIBIIU/CENZURAT/..1919/Semn.. (.. 1919)
Z-306.31.15.02. CENZURAT/POSTUL SIBIIU (Apr. 18, 1919-May 24, 1920)
Z-306.31.16 TIRGUL MURES/CENZURAT/..1919/Semn... (June 25, 1919)
Z-306.31.17 TURDA/CENZURAT/..1919/Semn... (..1919)

Censor Markings Without Locality

Z-306.41.01 CENZURAT (Sighisoara, date, signature-handwritten) (Aug. 10, 1919)

Romanian Censorship in Bessarabia. Framed linear markings.

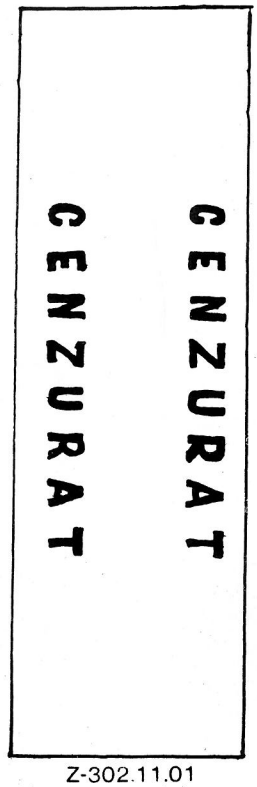
Z-306.61.01. CENZURAT/JUD. CHISINAU (Apr. 9, 1919)
Z-306.61.02 CENSURAT/JUD. HOTIN (..1919)
Z-306.61.03. CENZURAT/JUD. ORHEI (Dec. 21, 1921)
Z-306.61.04 CENZURAT/JUD. TIGHINA (May 2, 1925?)

Romanian Censorship in Bucovina. Circular markings.

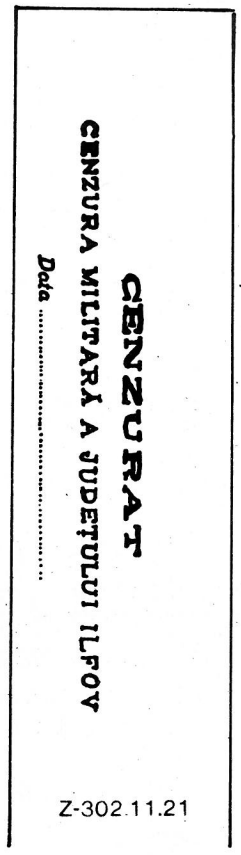
Z-306.81.01. Romania/Cenzura scriseriler/Cernauti (Jan. 20, 1920-June 28, 1920)
Z-306.81.02. ROMANIA/Prefectura Suceava/CENZURA SCRISORILOR (Nov. 18, 1919).

To be continued.

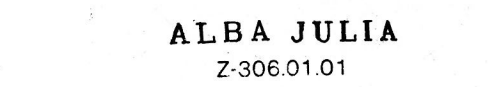
Z-302.11.11



Z-302.11.01



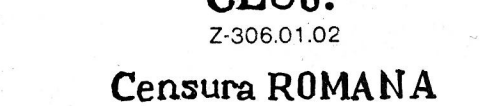
Z-302.11.21



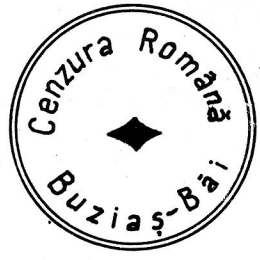
ALBA JULIA

Z-306.01.01

Z-306.01.02



Z-306.01.03.



Z-306.11.01.

Z-306.11.02.01.

Z-306.11.02.02.

Z-306.11.03

Z-306.11.04

Z-306.11.05

CENZURAT
BISTRITA.....
Z-306.21.01.

CENZURAT
POSTUL
LUGOJ
Z-306.21.02.

CENSURAT OFICIAL
ORADEA-MARE
Z-306.21.03.

Cenzura Română
Satu-Mare
Z-306.21.04.

CENZURAT
Arad .....
Z-306.31.01.

CENZURAT
Bistrita.....
Z-306.31.02.

CENZURAT
BLAJ_____
Z-306.31.03.01.

CENZURAT
Blaj..... 1919
Z-306.31.03.02.

BRAȘOV
CENZURAT
.....1919
Semn.....
Z-306.31.04.01.

BRASOV
CENZURAT
Semn.....
Data.....1919
Z-306.31.04.02.

CENZURAT
CAREII MARE
Z-306.31.05

Cenzurat
Cluj_____
Z-306.31.06.01.

Cenzurat
Cluj.....
Z-306.31.06.02.

Cenzurat "OZ"
Dej.....
Z-306.31.07.

CENZURAT
Deva_____
Z-306.31.08

Fagaraș
Censurat
Data_____
Z-306.31.09

CENZURAT
LUGOJ
Z-306.31.10

Censurat Mărul-Roșu
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Z-306.31.11.01.

Censurat Măru Rosu
Z-306.31.11.02.

CSIKSEREDA
CENZURAT
.....1919
Semn.....
Z-306.31.12

CENZURAT
Oradea-Mare
Z-306.31.13.01.

CENZURAT
ORADEA-MARE
Z-306.31.13.02.

ST. GHEORGHE
CENZURAT
.....19
Semn.....
Z-306.31.14.01.

ST. GHEORGHE
CENZURAT
_____1919
Z-306.31.14.02.

SIBIIU
CENZURAT
_____1919
Semn._____
Z-306.31.15.01.

CENZURAT
POSTUL SIBIIU
Z-306.31.15.02.

TIRGULMURES
CENZURAT
_____1919
Semn._____
Z-306.31.16

TURDA
CENZURAT
..... 1919
Semn.....
Z-306.31.17

CENZURAT
Sigh. la 10/8 919 Rop
censor
Z-306.41.01

CENSURAT
JUD. CHISINAU
Z-306.61.01.

CENSURAT
JUD. HOTIN
Z-306.61.02

CENSURAT
JUD. ORHEI
Z-306.61.03.

CENSURAT
JUD. TIGHINA
Z-306.61.04

Z-306.81.01.

Z-306.81.02.

ARS PHILATELICA
DEALERS IN THE STAMPS OF ROMANIA
P.O. BOX 1765
SILVER SPRING, MD. 20902, U.S.A.

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Foreign Censor Markings Used in Banat, 1914-1919

Mircea Telegut, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timisoara, Romania

At the beginning of World War I, the province of Banat, being under Austro-Hungarian administration, had all its administrative and military services organized by Habsburg monarchy. All regulations governing the posts and censorship of the Austro-Hungarian Empire also applied in Banat.

Out of the large number of censor markings used during that period, I have chosen to discuss only those which could be pinpointed as being used in Banat. Thus, only those displaying in the marking's text the name of a locality in Banat, where they were used, are included below. They usually were applied in red, sometimes in violet. Two types of markings were used: linear and circular. The linear markings have several subtypes:

—With "K.u.K. BRIEFZENSURSTELLE" *(Letter Censoring Office)* on the first line and the name of the locality on the second line.

—With "K.u.K. BRIEFZENSUR" *(Letter Censorship)* on the first line and the name of the locality on the second line.

—With other texts.

The larger cities such as Timisoara, and the industrial centers such as Resita *(Montana)* and Anina, had letter censoring offices *(Briefenzensurstelle)*. The smaller localities, such as Orşova, Caransebeş and Lugoj used "Briefenzensur" type markings.

The Habsburg Empire's duality is evidenced in the text of these markings, the first line being in German language while the second line, with the name of the locality, is in Hungarian.

Austrian type censor markings were also used in Timisoara and Banat. One of them reads: "Militäranwalt des k.u.k. Militärkommandante'/in Temesvár". Another one, in a rectangular frame reads: "Zensurbehorde MKT/Zensuriert - am 1914/kann weiter gehen.", this has the name of the locality removed but is known to have been used in Timisoara.

Following World War I, during the unsettled period of November 1918 to August 1919, Banat was under temporary Serbian occupation. The Serbian censor markings are circular and feature Cyrillic lettering. One of them reads: "CENZURIRANO U TEMISVARU" *(Censored in Timisoara)*. Another one, 34 mm. in diameter, applied in violet, found on a cover franked with Hungarian stamps and mailed in Sinicolaul Mare, on December 27, 1918, reads: "CENZURIRANO U VEL SENT MIKLUSU BR. 906".

While I could not find other Serbian censor markings used in Romanian Banat, I present a marking used in the Serbian Banat to point out an important difference. Used in Panchevo, it was found on covers mailed on January 1, 1919 and March 6, 1919, and reads "Kraevska Srbska Pancevo Voina Cenzura" *(Serbian Kingdom Panchevo Military Censorship)*. Its diameter measures 37 mm. and it was applied in black. The Serbian markings used temporarily in Romanian Banat differ in that the words "Kraevska Srbska" *(Serbian Kingdom)* are missing.

In the city of Arad, just north of the province of Banat, during the temporary occupation by the French army, a circular censor marking was used that reads: "CENSURE FRANCAISE ARAD" *(French Censorship Arad)*.

After the Romanian administration was established in Banat, only Romanian censor markings were used. Those interested in this subject, should look up "Censor Markings Used in Timisoara", R.P.S. No. 1 of 1982.

K. u. K. BRIEFZENSURSTELLE
TEMESVÁR

K. u. K. BRIEFZENSURSTELLE
RESICZABÁNYA

K. u. K. BRIEFZENSURSTELLE
ANINA

K. U. K. BRIEFZENSUR
ORSOVA

K. U. K. BRIEFZENSUR
KARÁNSEBES

K. U. K. BRIEFZENSUR
LUGOS

Militäranwaltdes k. u. k. Militärkommandante'
in Temesvár.

Zensurbehörde M K T
Zensuriert – am. 1914
kann weiter gehen.

ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

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The gold medal collection of E. J. Leon of Belgium, comprising the first issues (1858-72), unused and used, on cover, bisects, mixed frankings and plate reconstructions.

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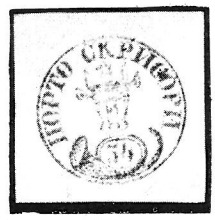

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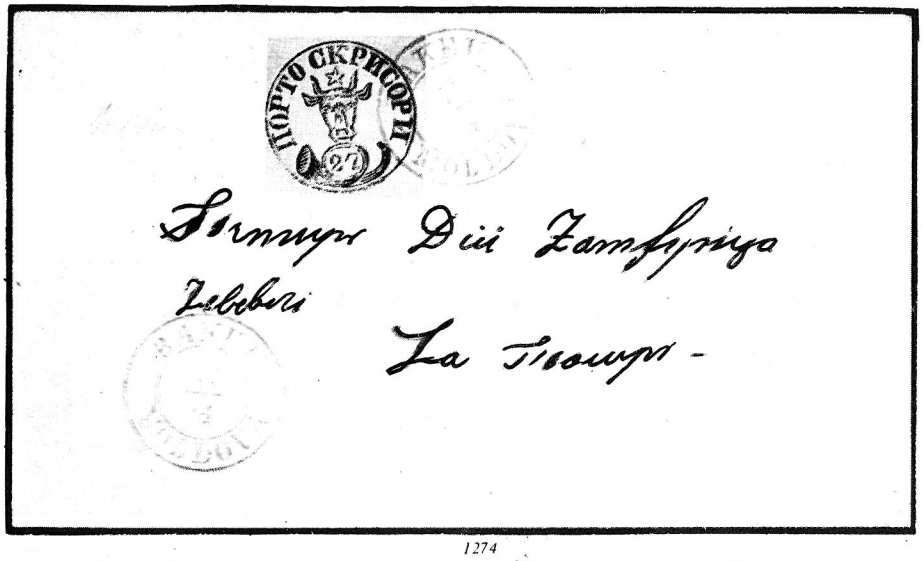

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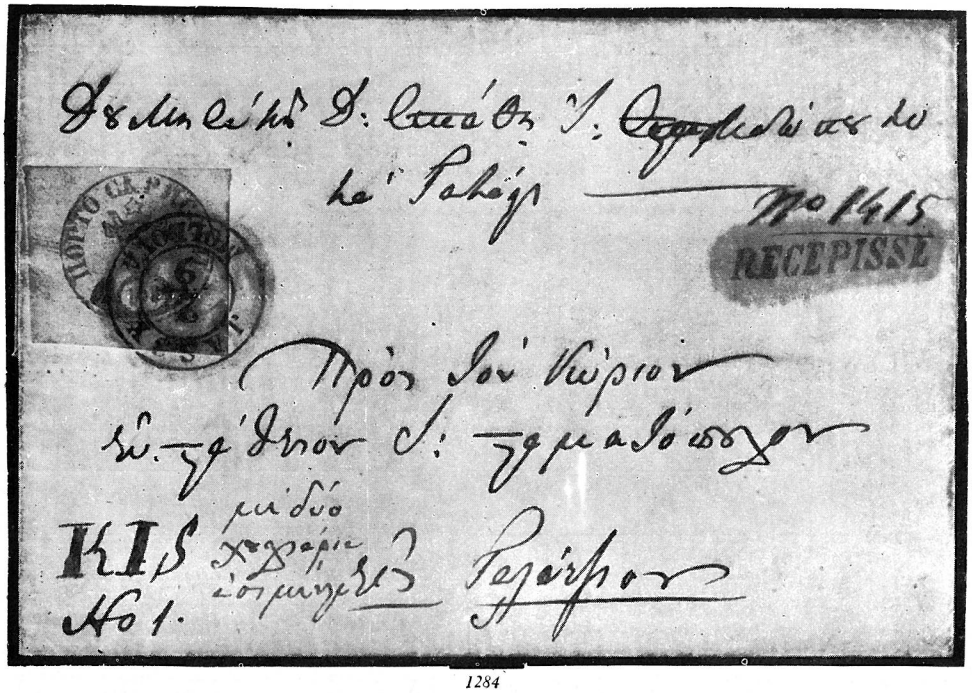

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FOIA
DE АГРІКѲЛТѲРЪ ПРАКТІКЪ.

Сѣпт redakцiа лѣї Ioan Ionecкѳ.

п. II. Фоiа есе одатъ пе лѣнъ.—Предцлѣ абонаментѣлї пе анѣ анѣ есте de 6 сѳпцiлї дп Iашi шi de 7 дп цiнстрї. Абонарea се фаче дп Iашi ла лiврърiї, дп цiнстрї ла DD. Професорi.—Дашiтипъриле шi артiкѣлеле съ се адресеzе франко ла дiнсѣлї редакторѣл фоiеї. Апрiл 1859.

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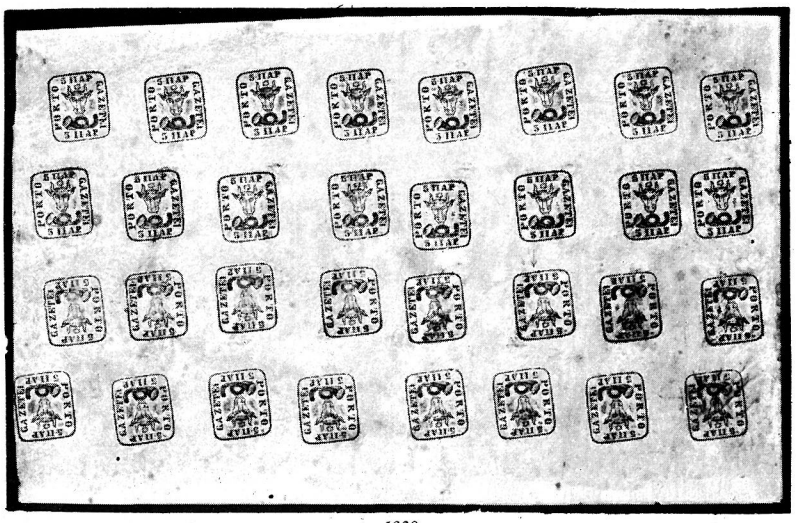

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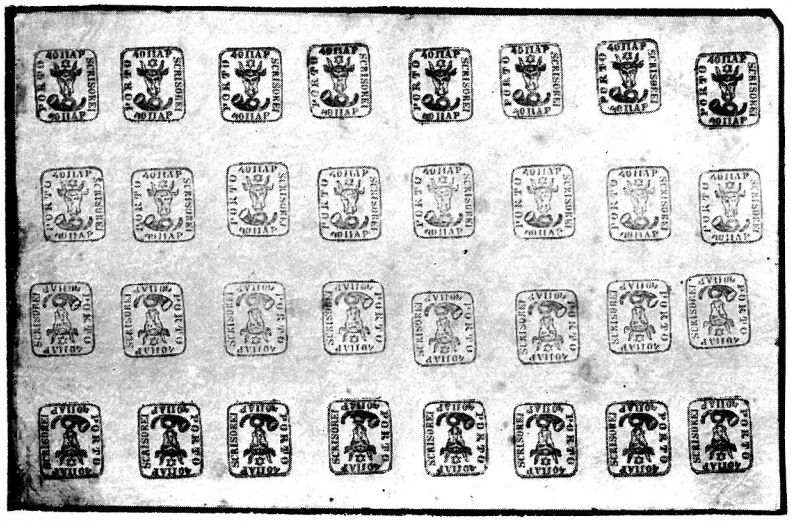

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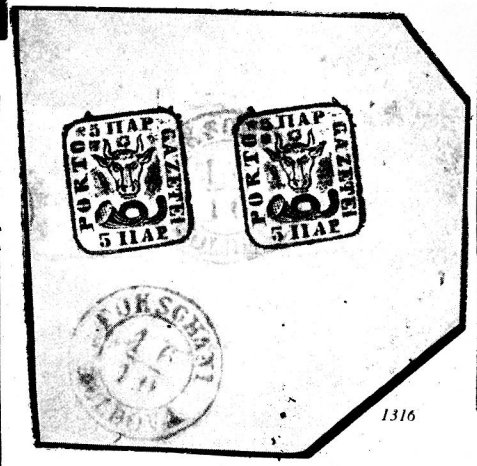

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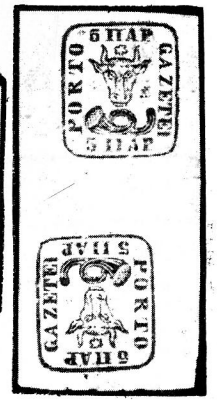

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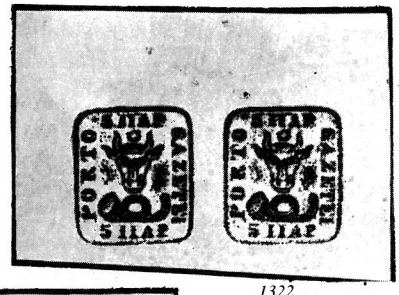

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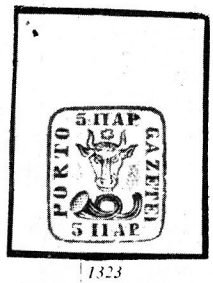

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The LEON Collection of Romanian Classics

E.J. Leon of Brussels, Belgium, assembled one of the richest collection of Romanian classics. As offered for sale at the Basel, Switzerland, Robson Lowe auction on Oct. 14, 1966, it contained 428 lots.

The first Moldavian issue (14 items) was represented with the following items: 27 Parale (4), 54 Parale (5), 81 Parale (1), 108 Parale (4), mint, used and on cover. There were four 5 Parale Porto Gazetei with full frame on bluish paper; two singles and two on a newspaper fragment. Furthermore, there were 40 Parale (31) and 80 Parale (9) stamps on bluish paper.

On white paper, there were six 5 Parale Porto Gazetei with full frame and 11 stamps and a full sheet of 32 of the 5 Parale Porto Gazetei with broken frame. Also there were 40 of the 40 Parale, singles, pairs, a strip of 3 and a full sheet of 32, as well as 26 of the 80 Parale stamps.

On yellowish paper there were seven 5 Parale Porto Gazetei with broken frame, 47 of 40 Parale and 27 of 80 Parale.

We are presenting here excerpts of the Moldavia issues that appeared in this auction catalogue and in future issues we will continue presenting the Moldavia-Walachia, Cuza and Carol I stamps.

Lot			Value S.Frs.
1271	★	*27p. black on rose without gum and slightly thinned at upper left but fine and very rare. With Gilbert Certificate (1937).*	10,000
1272	△	*— A fine example cancelled in red on a piece.*	5,500
1273	⊠	*— Another cancelled in blue on an entire. With A. Diena Certificate (1953).*	10,000
1274	⊠	*— Another cancelled in blue on entire with decorative embossing, signed A. Diena*	15,000
1275	★	*54p. blue on green without gum, slight thins but very fine. Ex Caspary.*	2,400
1276	○	*— A very fine example cancelled in red, with Friedl Certificate (1960).*	1,200
1277	○	*54p. blue on green cancelled in blue, very fine.*	950
1278	⊠	*— A pale shade cancelled in red on an entire which is signed by W. Balasse.*	2,400
1279	⊠	*— A deep shade cut to shape and cancelled in greenish blue on an entire.*	1,200
1280	★	*81p. blue on blue without gum, very fine and a rarity.*	15,000
1281	★	*108p. blue on pink without gum and slightly creased but very fine.*	12,000
1283	○	*— Another cancelled in red, a tiny stain and rub on right margin but very fine. With Verband Schweizer Certificate (1948).*	1,800
1284	⊠	*— Another cancelled in red on entire. Ex Caspary.*	4,250
1285	△	*5p. black, two fine examples cancelled in blue on part of a newspaper. Ex Caspary and Rothschild, very rare.*	24.000
1286	○	*— A very fine example cancelled in blue. Ex Caspary and with R.P.S. Certificate (1963). Photo in colour on back cover*	7.250
1287	○	*— Another very fine, cancelled in blue, small closed tear at top. Ex Caspary and with R.P.S. Certificate (1963).*	2,400
1288	★⊞	*40p. blue, a tête-bêche block of four with original gum.*	2,400
1296	○	*40p. blue, a strip of four cancelled in blue, creased but very rare. Ex Caspary*	2.400
1307	★	*80p. red with original gum but thinned at upper right corner. A great rarity. With A. Diena Certificate (1961).*	3,500
1309	○	*80p. red, a fine pair cancelled in blue*	800
1311	○	*— Another cancelled in red, slight crease at top.*	300
1312	○	*— Another cancelled in black.*	250
1313	⊠	*— Another cancelled in blue on an entire, frame touched at foot.*	725
1315	★	*5p. black Type I, a very fine example of this great rarity with original gum. With Fulpius (1954) and Wallner (1958) Certificates.*	30.000
1316	△	*— A fine pair cancelled in blue on piece. Ex Caspary and Rothschild. Very rare.*	18,000
1320	★Ⓑ	*5p. black type II, a complete mint sheet which includes eight tête-bêche pairs; the 11th stamp resembles type I. Very rare.*	15,000
1321	★	*— A tête-bêche pair with original gum, creased in central margin*	725
1322	★	*— A fine pair with much original gum.*	275
1323	★	*5p. black type II, a fine example with original gum.*	120
1325	★	*— A similar stamp.*	110
1326	★	*— Another in similar condition.*	110
1332	★Ⓑ	*40p. blue, a complete mint sheet which includes eight tête-bêche pairs which are in a lighter shade than the others*	9.000
1340	△	*— A fine pair in a deep shade, frame touched at left, with red "BERLAD FRANCO" on piece.*	250
1342	○	*— A deep shade cancelled with a blue "FRANCO TEKUTSCH"*	300
1344	△	*— A deeper shade similarly cancelled on piece.*	180
1345	△	*— Similar shades used on pieces, one cancelled in green, the other cancelled in blue and pen marked.*	175
1346	⊠	*— A fine example, frame touched at left, tied to cover by a rare black "FRANCO VASLUI"*	500
1347	⊠	*— A greenish blue shade tied to cover by a black "FRANCO GALATZ".*	300
1348	★	*80p. red, a fine tete-beche pair with original gum, creased in central margin and a tiny thin caused by mounting there.*	1,200
1349	○	*— A superb tete-beche pair, very lightly cancelled in blue, a crease in central margin. Ex Rothschild collection and very rare. With Friedl Certificate (1947).*	7,250
1350	△	*80p. red, a fine pair tied to piece by blue "FRANCO DOROHOI"*	900
1351	○	*— A fine pair in a pale shade clearly cancelled in black.*	900
1352	○	*— A pair in a similar shade cancelled in blue.*	900
1353	△	*— A pair in a deep shade with red "FRANCO BERLAD" on piece.*	725
1354	△	*— A fine example lightly cancelled in violet on piece.*	250
1355	○	*— A fine deep shade with "FRANCO TEKOUTCH" in blue.*	300
1356	○	*— Another cancelled in black.*	225
1357	○	*— Another cancelled in blue, a broken frame variety.*	225
1358	○	*— A paler shade with blue "TEKUTSCH" c.d.s., on piece.*	200
1359	○	*— Another cancelled in blue.*	140

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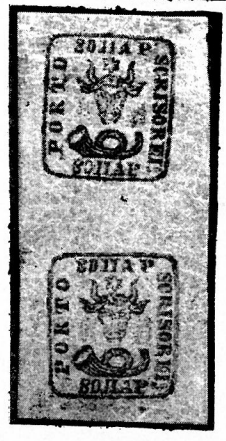

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1360	○	— *A similar stamp.*	140
1361	⊠	— *A fine example cancelled in black on entire.*	475
1363	★⊞	— *A tête-bêche block with original gum which is slightly crinkled.*	1,800
1364	★	— *A tête-bêche vertical pair with original gum.*	850
1382	⊠	— *A fine strip of three used with a single on an entire from Foltischeni, rather indistinct black cancellation and the paper is a little browned. Signed by W Balasse. Very rare.*	1,200
1383	⊠	— *A wonderful example cancelled in black on entire, a slight vertical crease, initialled A.D.*	600
1384	⊠	*40p. blue, a very fine example cancelled in blue on a front which shows a blue "TEKUTSCH" c.d.s.*	475
1385	⊠	— *Another cancelled with a black "FRANCO VASLUI" on an entire which also shows the c.d.s., a slight crease.*	475
1386	⊠	— *Another cancelled with a blue "GALATZ NO. 2" on entire, the paper rather browned.*	350
1387	⊠	*40p. blue in similar condition similarly but indistinctly cancelled in red on entire.*	300
1388	⊠	— *Two singles in similar condition cancelled in black on an entire which shows a "KAHUL" c.d.s.*	475
1389	★	*80p. red, a tête-bêche vertical pair with original gum which appears to have been centrally mounted.*	1,750
1390	★	— *A very fine pair in a bright shade with original gum.*	475
1391	★	— *A fine vertical pair in a pale shade with original gum, a few dark specks in the paper.*	325
1392	△	— *A superb example, very slightly creased, tied to piece by a blue "GALATZ" c.d.s. and there is a "RECEPISSE" in red.*	425
1393	△	— *A very fine example with reddish "FRANCO GALATZ" on a piece which shows two different c.d.s. in the same colour, the paper a little browned.*	325
1394	△	— *Another fine example clearly cancelled in black on piece.*	300
1395	△	*80p. red cancelled with black "KAHUL" c.d.s. on piece.*	250
1396	△	— *Another with light blue "FRANCO FOLTISCHENI" on piece.*	250
1400	△	— *Two good copies sharing a blue "GALATZ" c.d.s. on piece.*	300
1401	⊠	— *A wonderful pair with blue "GALATZ NO. 2" and tied by a blue "RECEPISSE" to an entire.*	1,200
1402	⊠	— *A fine deep shade cancelled in blue on an entire, small tears at left.*	425
1403	⊠	— *Two fair deep shades, one with a corner creased by fold, sharing a red "FRANCO BACEU" on entire.*	425

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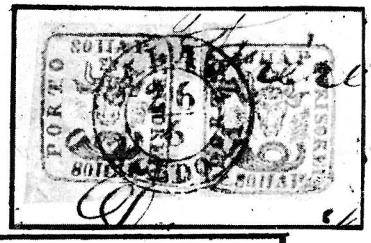
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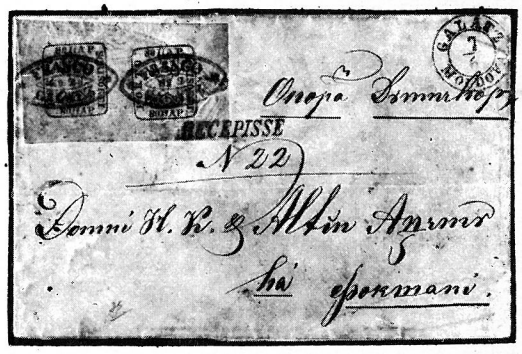

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COUNTERFEIT POSTAL MARKINGS

SILVIU DRAGOMIR, Str. Biserica Popa Chițu No. 17, 70268 Bucharest, Romania.

Leonard Pascanu, Aleea Politehnicii No. 6, bl. 3, sc. 2, et. 4, apt. 20, 77213 Bucharest, Romania

Soon after the dawn of philately, counterfeits began to be produced. They have been reported during almost all periods, originating from almost every corner of the globe, with some representation from just about any area one cares to name. Unfortunately, a fear exists that study and exposure of counterfeits may harm the philatelic community. The truth is that covering up this problem encourages counterfeiters and, in fact, acts to philately's detriment.

As a supplement to *"Pictorial Cancel Counterfeits"* by Silviu Dragomir, published in Romanian Philatelic Studies, no. 1/1982, we present several types of counterfeited markings, created and marketed by the same person as the previously reported ones. These are typical samples, but by no means the only ones, of those created in the 1970's by Grigore Cuculis of Tulcea, Romania.

MARITIME MARKINGS

Fig. 1 shows the original and counterfeit *"CONSTANTA-CONSTANTINOPLE-SMYRNE"* markings. The original has well formed letters, especially, those in "S.M.R.," while the letters on the counterfeits are unevenly and unsteadily drawn.

Fig. 2. depicts the original and counterfeit *"SMYRNE-CONSTANTINOPLE-CONSTANTA"* markings. These bear the same differences in lettering as above. In addition, the counterfeit is larger than the original and its postal horn is drawn inaccurately.

Fig. 3 illustrates the *"CONSTANTA-ALEXANDRIA"* markings with differences in letters as above and in the small eight-ray star at the bottom.

Fig. 4. shows the *"BIR. AMB. ALEXANDRIA CONSTANTA"* markings. The differences in the lettering are again apparent. Furthermore, the counterfeit has no period after the abreviation *"BIR."*.

Fig. 5 shows a diagram of the *"ALEXANDRIA-CONSTANTA 3"* marking. Note that the counterfeit has a distance of 2.5 mm. *(instead of 2 mm.)* between the top of *"3"* and the bridge's lower line, and has six vertical shading lines *(instead of five)* in the lower right half-spandrel.

Besides the above, we have also seen a counterfeit marking of the Lloyd Agency in

ORIGINAL

Fig. 1

COUNTERFEIT

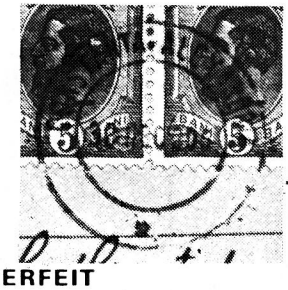
ORIGINAL

Fig. 2

COUNTERFEIT

ORIGINAL

Fig. 3

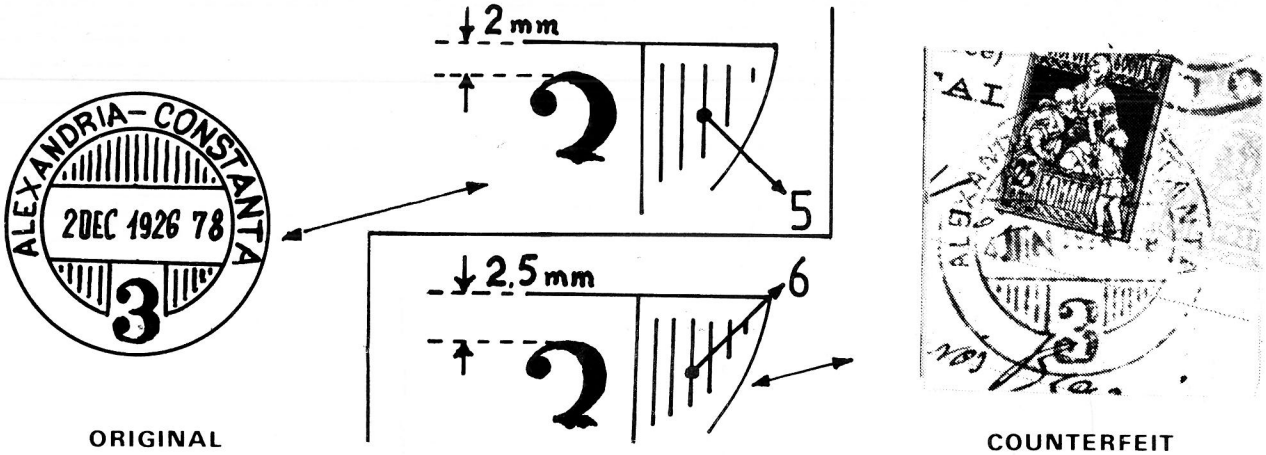


COUNTERFEIT

ORIGINAL

Fig. 4

COUNTERFEIT

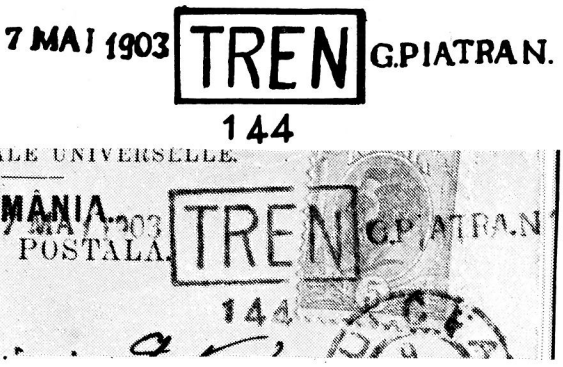


ORIGINAL

COUNTERFEIT

Fig. 5

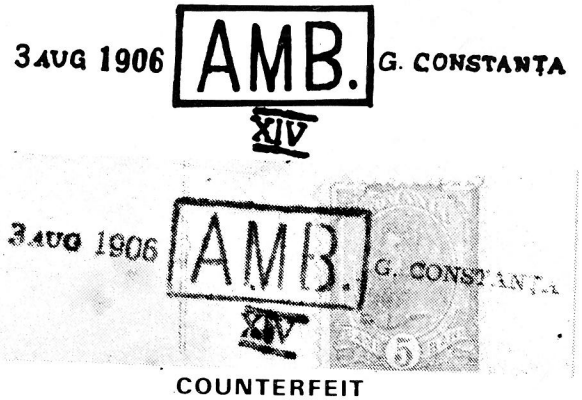
ORIGINAL



COUNTERFEIT

Fig. 6

ORIGINAL



COUNTERFEIT

Fig. 7

Brăila and a *"CONSTANTA-CONSTANTINOPLE 1"* marking, both created by the same counterfeiter as the rest. These too display the same characteristics as the other counterfeits, with unevenly and unsteadily drawn letters, inks differing from those used on the originals, and appearance of having been made with a zinc plate. All these counterfeits often show incorrect postal usages *(with impossible dates, rates, routes, etc.)*.

RAILWAY TRAVELING POST OFFICE MARKINGS

Fig. 6 illustrates the original and counterfeit of *"TREN G. PIATRA N."* markings. Note the differences in letters and numbers, as well as the four digit year *(instead of only the last three digits)* on the counterfeit.

Fig. 7 presents the original and counterfeit of the *"AMB. G. CONSTANTA"* markings. Note the differences as above.

The differenced between originals and these counterfeits are best seen in the printer's type style and aspect of the letters and numbers and the size of the boxed *"TREN"* or *"AMB."*. Most such counterfelt markings have been applied on previously cancelled cheap stamps, very often with only the boxed *"TREN"* or *"AMB."* showing, but not the date or the name of the locality.

Counterfeit *"TREN"* markings have been

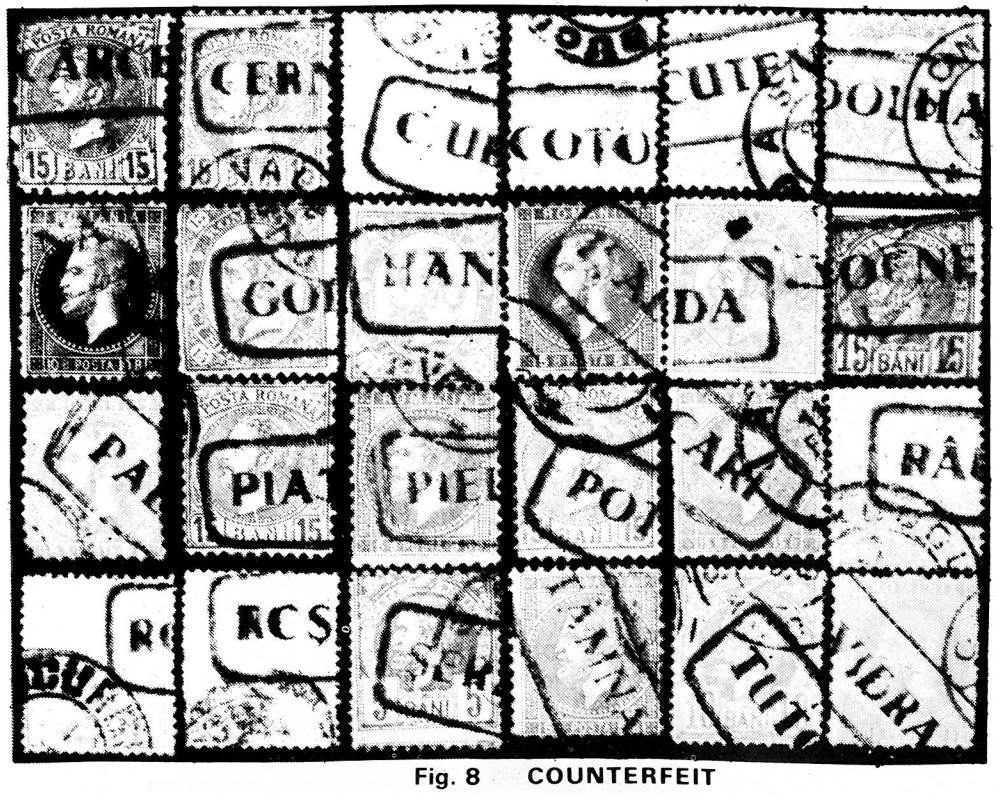


Fig. 8 COUNTERFEIT

found with the names of the following localities: CAMPULUNG, CĂRBUNEŞTI, CIULNIŢA, IAŞI, MATASARU, T. FRUMOS and VALEA LARGA. Similar markings with *"AMB."* are known with BUŞTENI, BURDUJENI, BORCEA and DUNĂREA.

RAILROAD SERVICE MARKINGS

Certain railroad stations, designated to handle mail but not having their own cancellers applied service markings on mail they serviced. We have found counterfeits of such markings bearing the names of the following railroad stations;CÂRCEA, CERNAVODA, CIULNIŢA, CUCUTENI, ELENA, GOLEŞTI, HANU CONACHI, IŞALNIŢA, LEORDA, OCNELE MARI, PALANCA, PIATRA NEAMŢ, PIELEŞTI, POTCOAVA, RĂCARI, RIMNICU SĂRAT, ROMAN, ROŞIORI, SERBEŞTI, STOLNICI,TAMNA, TUTOVA and VIDRA. Fig. 8 shows some of these counterfeit markings applied on stamps. Fig. 9 portrays the original and counterfeit "STOLNICI" marking. The differences between them is easy to see if the size and the letter typeface are compared.

ORIGINAL

Fig. 9

COUNTERFEIT

CONCLUSION

The general characteristics of the Cuculis counterfeits are rough, inaccurate execution, manufacture by use of zinc plates, badly drawn letters and/or numbers, use of wrong typeface. They frequently display impossible postal usage as far as dates, rates and routes are concerned. Often covers and postcards were doctored to create spectacular rarities which could bring high prices to the counterfeiter.

With the information given above, it should not be difficult to identify Cuculis counterfeits. This article, however, should be used only as a guide, as other types of counterfeit markings probably also exist.

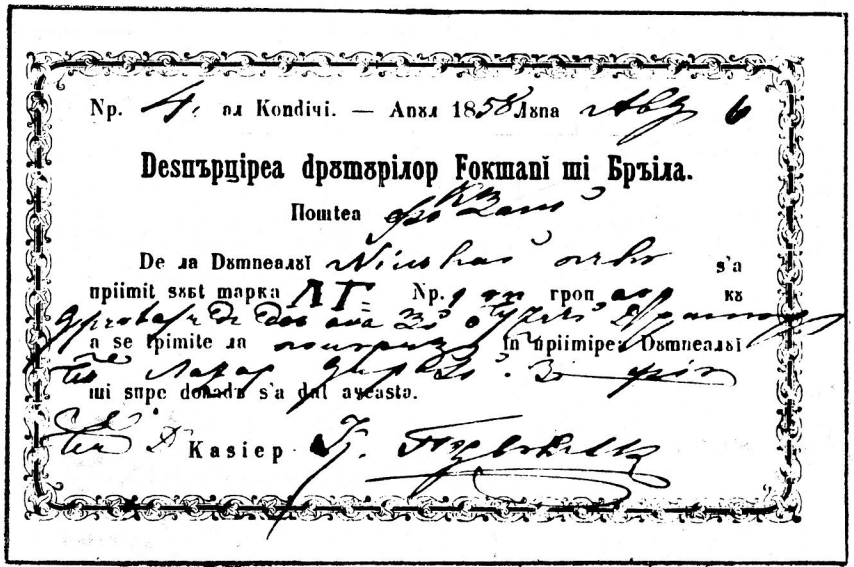
Auxiliary Postal Stationary used in 1858 and 1867

Dr. Meyer-Marcel Kohn, P.O. Box 181, IL 75101 Rishon Leziyon, Israel.

Auxiliary postal stationary are printed forms without imprinted stamps, produced for administrative use in connection with various postal functions. They shed light on the way the post office operated.

Fig. 1 shows a receipt for a cash shipment. Measuring 150 by 100 mm., it has black printing on greenish-yellowish white paper. The text, written in the transitional (from Cyrillic to Roman) alphabet, reads "Nr.... al Condicii.- Anul 18... Luna.../ Despartirea drumurilor Focsani si Braila/ Posta .../ De la Dumnealui ... s'a/ primit subt marca ... Nr. ... grop ... cu/ .../ a se trimite la ... in primirea Dumnealui/ si spre dovada s'a dat aceasta./ Casier ..." (Register No.....- Year 18... Month.../ Administration of the Focsani and Braila routes./ Post .../ From Mr. ... there/ was received under mark ... No. ... a cash shipment to/ be sent ... to be received by him/ and as proof this has been rendered./ Cashier ...). This receipt is equivalent to today's money order receipt. During those times, the cash itself was shipped through the post office to the addressee, while today only the appropriate forms are mailed. This receipt was filled out by hand on Aug. 6, 1858 (only a few weeks after the introduction of the first Moldavian stamps) by the cashier of the Focsani post office. The post office's cancel was not applied on this postal form, the date and the locality being handwritten in the appropriate spaces instead.

Fig. 2 illustrates another such form, also printed in lettering of the transitional alphabet. It is black on yellowish-white paper and its size is 108 by 185 mm. The text reads:"Posta No. 5./ Fatura Scrisorilor./ De la ... la ... Easit 186.. luna .../ Sosit 186.. luna .../ Socoteala anume Bucati Franco. Lei. par. Porto. Lei. par./ Scrisori recomandate .../" Francate .../ "Spre tradare de plata .../ " Tranzit .../ " Scazute de la fatura/ Biuroului ... din .../ Suma .../ Controlizatie./ Adaosu la .../ Scaderi la. .../ Soma adaogita s'au scazut. .../ Suma adivarata. .../ Expeduit de ...") Post No. 5/ Invoice for Letters./ From ... to .../ Went out 186.. month .../ Arived 186.. month .../ Itemized calculation of pieces Paid. Lei. par. Postage due. Lei. par./ Registered Letters .../ Paid " .../ Postage due " .../ Transit " .../ " Subtracted from the invoice .../ of the Office ... from .../ Amount. .../ Verification./ Added to .../ Reduced from. .../ The added amount was subtracted. .../ The actual amount. .../ Sent by ... Received by ...). This auxiliary postal from was likewise filled out by hand. A clerk of the Piatra post office applied the "PIATRA MOLDOVA 1/11" dated town cancellation, on Nov. 1, 1867, and sent it accompanied by two registered and two postage due letters, to the Craiova post office. At bottom, the form was signed by both the sender and the receiver.


Np. 4 al Kondiçi. — Anul 1858 Luna VIII 6

Despărţirea drumurilor Focşani şi Brăila.

Postea

De la Dumnealui s'a

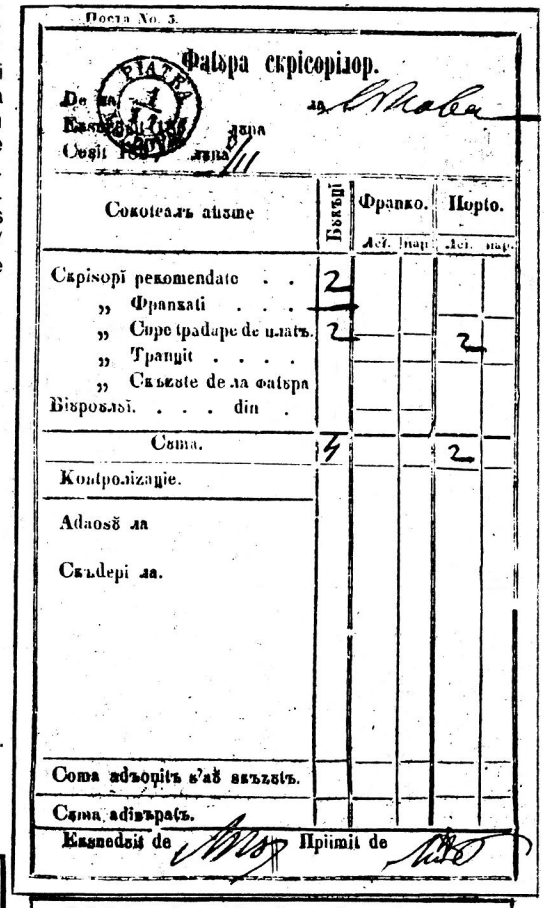
primit sabt marka AT Np. grop cu

a se trimite la in primirea Dumnealui

şi spre dovada s'a dat aceasta.

Kasier

Fig. 1.


Posta No. 5.

Faţura scrisorilor.

De la ... la ... Easit 186.. luna

Sosit 186.. luna VIII

Socoteală anume	Bucăţi	Franco. Lei.	par.	Porto. Lei.	par.
Scrisori recomendate	2				
„ Francati					
„ Spre tradare de plată	2			2	
„ Tranzit					
„ Scăzute de la faţura Biroului din					
Suma.	4			2	
Kontrolizaţie.					
Adaosŭ la					
Scădepi la.					
Soma adăogită s'aŭ scăzută.					
Suma adivărată.					

Expedeşi de ... Priimit de ...

Fig. 2.

INQUIRIES regarding the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB** or the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES** can be sent to the editor.

An extensive collection of Romanian philatelic magazine FILATELIA is available through the editor.

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Varying Postal Rates for Picture Postcards

George Pataki

The domestic postal rates for picture postcards have changed many times during the years, beginning at 5 Bani in the 1870's, to 200 Lei in 1946. In addition, during some periods, postal tax stamps had to be added. If the postal tax stamp was missing or of insufficient denomination, postal tax due stamps were affixed and their value had to be paid for by the recipient. Similarly, when the affixed postage stamps were insufficient, postage due stamps had to be added and paid for.

The table below lists a sampling of picture postcards sent to domestic addresses, with their date of use, face value of affixed postage stamps, with the fee that had actually been required when it differed from the affixed value in parentheses, as well as the postal tax stamps and postage due/postal tax due stamps found on these cards.

The first rate was established at 5 Bani (Fig. 1). After many years, it was raised to 10 Bani (Fig. 2). By 1921 the rate had risen to 20 Bani and, in addition, a 10 Bani *"Asistența Socială"* (postal tax for charity) stamp had to be affixed (Fig. 3). Later the *"Asistența Socială"* postal tax was increased to 25 Bani and the postage fee went up to 50 Bani (Fig. 4), then to 1 Leu (Fig. 5), 2 Lei (Fig. 6) and 3 Lei (Fig. 7). Compulsory use of *"Asistența Socială"* postal tax stamps was discontinued on Dec. 31, 1929; thus starting from 1930, only a 3 Lei postage stamp was required (Fig. 8).

This simple structure did not last long, as on May 15, 1931, in addition to the 3 Lei postage stamp, a 1 Leu *"Timbrul Aviației"* (postal tax for aviation) stamp had to be affixed. Fig. 9 shows a card, franked incorrectly with 4 Lei in postage stamps instead of the required 3 Lei, and with only a 50 Bani *"Timbrul Aviației"* stamp instead of a 1 Leu. Due to the 50 Bani deficiency of postal tax stamps affixed, and despite the fact that the 1 Leu overpayment of the postage fee more than made up this deficiency, it received a 1 Leu *"Taxa de Plata/Timbrul Aviației"* postal tax due stamp for aviation. This card is interesting in that it proves that overpaying one fee, such as a postage, did not compensate for underpaying another, such as a postal tax. Also to be noted on it is the scarce personal postal horn marking of the delivering mailman (No. 65 from postal district VI) who delivered the card and collected the postal tax due.

Starting from 1932, besides the 3 Lei postage stamp and the 1 Leu *"Timbrul Aviației"*, a 2 Lei *"Pentru Cultură"* (for culture) postal tax stamp (not listed by Scott) had to be affixed on picture postcards as these were considered luxury mail (Fig. 10). When the 2 Lei *"Pentru Cultura"* postal tax stamp was missing, a 3 Lei *"Taxa Porto/Pentru Cultură"* postal tax due stamp (also not listed by Scott) had to be affixed and in turn paid for by the recipient (Fig. 11).

At some time in the mid 1930's, the Romanian postal administration (as did several other postal administrations) granted domestic rate reductions for picture postcards which bore only messages of five words or less (with date, signature and address not counted), as they considered such illustrated postcards (as they are sometimes called) an excellent means for disseminating tourism publicity. The upper-right corner of an unused picture postcard (Fig. 12), printed in 1938 in Cluj, displays a printed text reading *"Dacă scrieți numai o formulă de politețe exprimată în cinci cuvinte. Taxa postală e 1 Leu în loc de 3 Lei"* (If you write only a greeting expressed in five words, the postal tariff is 1 Leu instead of 3 Lei). Similar texts can be found on Hungarian picture postcards printed before World War II. Few picture postcard manufacturers, however, bothered to print such a text. Even when printed, it is usually not visible on used cards as the affixed stamps normally cover it. I could not establish when this reduction took effect and when it ended; the cards confirming to this reduced rate which I saw dated from 1936-1938. Postal tax rates, were likewise reduced on such short message picture postcards. Having examined a large number of picture postcards, I draw the conclusion that the 2 Lei *"Pentru Cultură"*, used until 1938, was mandatory on picture postcards with full-length messages, but not required on cards with five words or less. Furthermore, instead of a 1 Leu *"Timbrul Aviației"* or *"Fondul Aviației"*, only a 50 Bani denomination was to be added (Fig. 13). Consequently, a picture

Date	Postage Stamps	Postal Tax	Postage Due/Postal Tax Due
July 27, 1898	5 Bani		
July 9, 1920	10 Bani		
Aug. 19, 1921	20 Bani	10 B. Asistența Socială	
Nov. 20, 1923	50 Bani	25 B. Asistența Socială	
Aug. 31, 1925	1 Leu	25 B. Asistența Socială	
March 25, 1926	2 Lei	25 B. Asistența Socială	
Aug. 11, 1927	3 Lei	25 B. Asistența Socială	
Aug. 6, 1930	3 Lei		
June 29, 1931	4 (3) Lei	50 B. Timbrul Aviației	1 L. Taxa de Plată/Timbrul Aviației
June 21, 1932	3 Lei	1 L. Timbrul Aviației 2 L. Pentru Cultură	
Aug. 5, 1935	3 Lei	1 L. Timbrul Aviației	3 L. Taxa Porto/Pentru Cultură
July 11, 1936	1 L. (red. rate)	50 B. Timbrul Aviației	
July 23, 1937	1 (3) Lei	50 B. Fondul Aviației 2 L. Pentru Cultură	4 L. Taxa de Plată
July 6, 1939	4 Lei	1 L. Fondul Aviației	
June 14, 1939	3 (4) Lei	1 L. Fondul Aviației	2 L. Taxa de Plată
Aug. 3, 1939	5 Lei		
Sept. 15, 1942	6 Lei		
Aug. 9, 1946	200 Lei		

Figure 1.

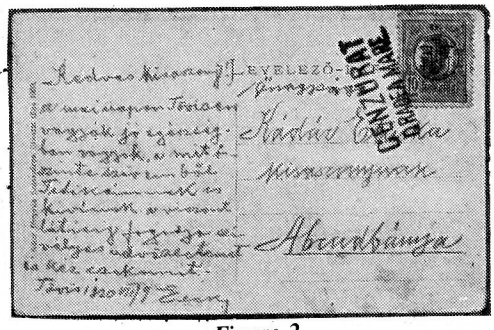

Figure 2

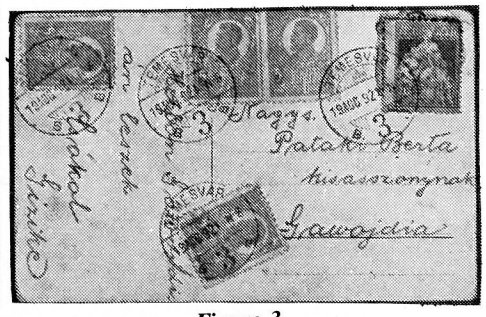

Figure 3

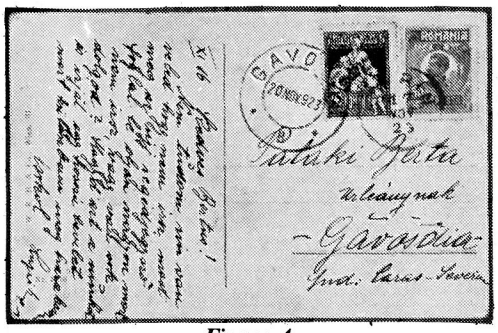

Figure 4.

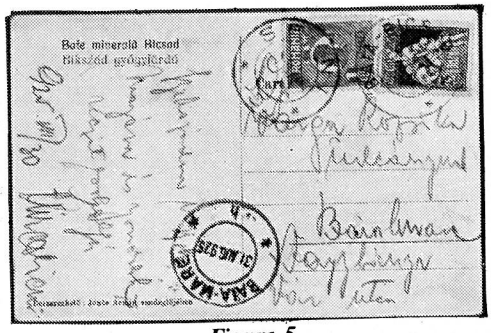

Figure 5.

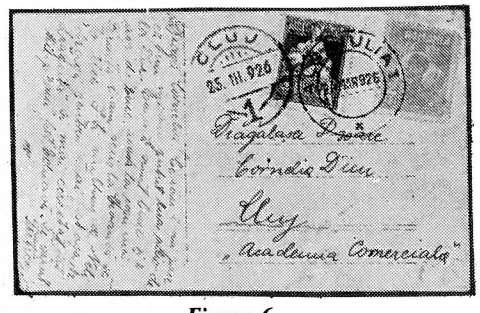

Figure 6.

postcard to a domestic destination, bearing only a short message, cost only 1.50 Lei (1 Leu postage plus 50 Bani postal tax for aviation) instead of 6 Lei (3 Lei postage, plus 2 Lei postal tax for culture, plus 1 Leu postal tax for aviation), resulting in a 75% saving. Collectors wondering why some cards bear 1 Leu postage, while others, mailed during the same period, show 3 Lei in postage as well as differing types and denominations of postal tax stamps, will find the answer in this preferential rate.

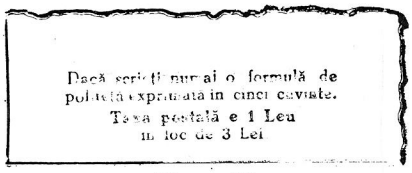

Figure 12.

Not everybody knew exact rates to be used; furthermore, people often wrote more than five words but franked cards as if the reduced rate applied. The postal authorities applied a *"T"* (Tax-insufficient postage) marking on some insufficiently franked cards, and forwarded these to their destinations, where the addressees had to pay double the deficient amount. This sum to be collected is expressed in the form of postage due stamps affixed on the cards. Fig. 14 illustrates a card having more than five words, thus requiring 3 Lei postage. It received a *"T"* marking and 4 Lei in postage due stamps. The postal tax for aviation was also insufficient as it should have been 1 Leu instead of 50 Bani. However, a 1 Leu postal tax due stamp for aviation (double the amount of the missing 50 Bani) was not affixed and the fee not collected, probably due to carelessness by the postal worker.

Even postal clerks did not always know the proper rate. At times, they were simply negligent. Frequently, insufficiently franked cards would pass through unobserved, without receiving the *"T"* marking. Also, cards marked with *"T"* would often be delivered without charging the fee owed if postage due stamps had not been affixed.

In 1938, the postage rate for picture postcards was increased from 3 to 4 Lei. For a while, this rate hike added to the existing confusion. The situation became even more chaotic when the requirement to affix a *"Pentru Cultură"* stamp was abolished (but the obligation to affix *"Fondul Aviației"* stamps was maintained). Fig. 15 shows a correctly franked picture postcard, while fig. 16 pictures one with only 3 Lei postage (instead of 4 Lei), a *"T"* postage due marking and 2 Lei in postage due stamps.

From 1939 on, postal tax stamps for aviation were no longer required, this tax having been already included in the higher prices of the postage stamps. During the inflation of the war years, the rate climbed to 5 Lei (Fig. 17), the 6 Lei (Fig. 18) and in 1946 had

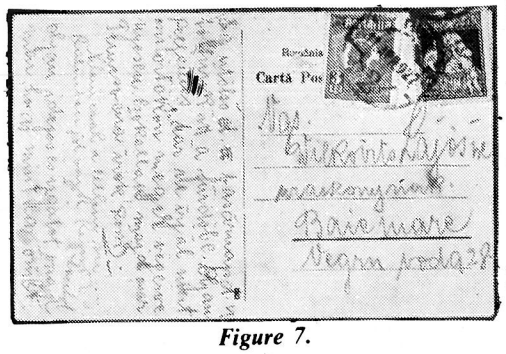

Figure 7.

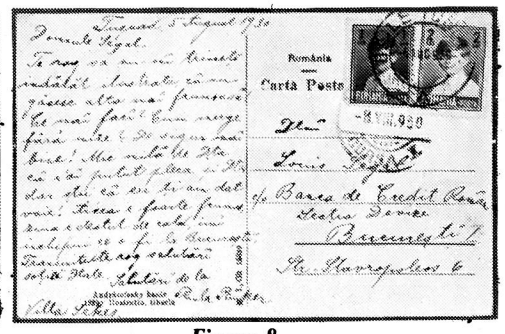

Figure 8.

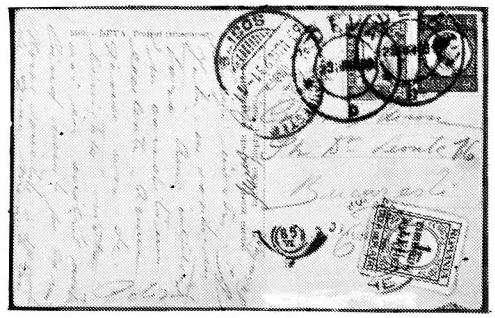

Figure 9.

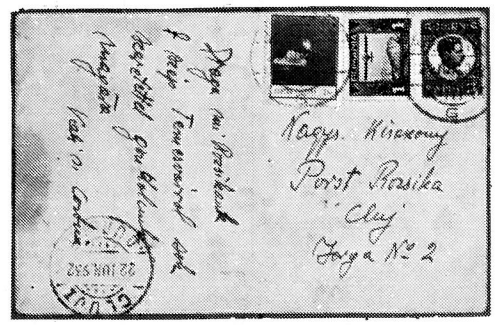

Figure 10.

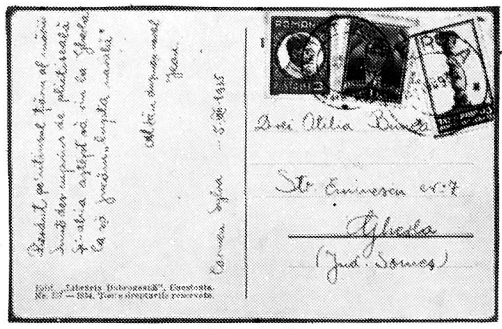

Figure 11.

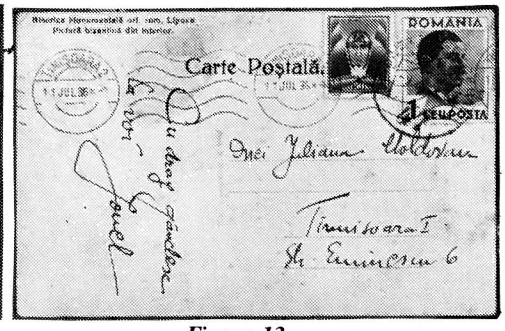

Figure 13.

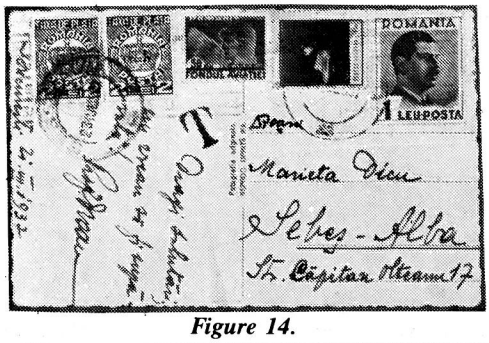

Figure 14.

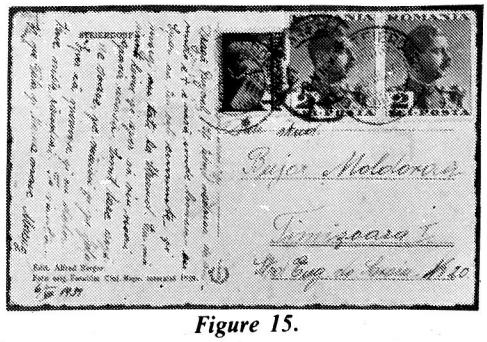

Figure 15.

Figure 16.

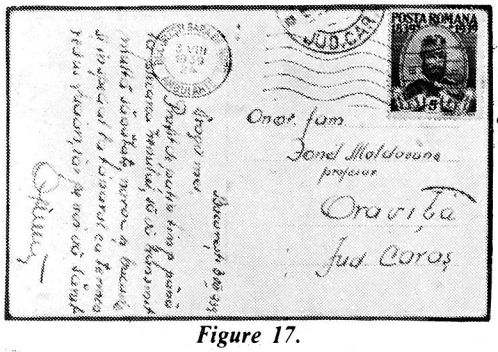

Figure 17.

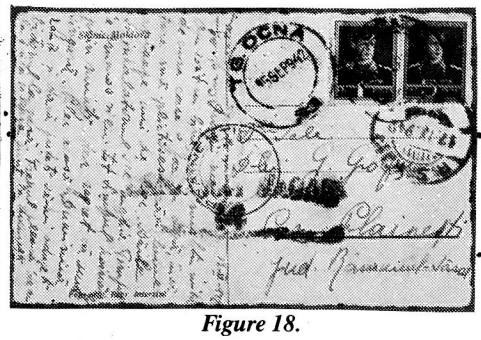

Figure 18.

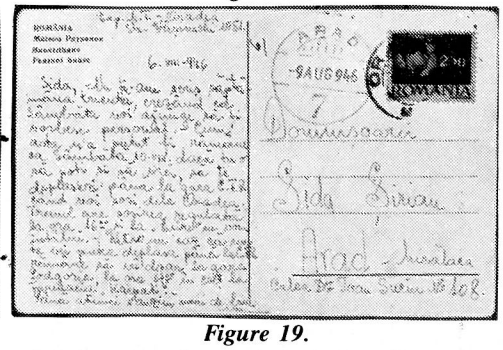

Figure 19.

reached 200 Lei (Fig. 19).

It is small wonder that, with ever changing rates and special requirements, many picture postcards should be found with wrong frankings. While some are overpaid, most are underpaid. Philatelists interested in postal rate structures would do well to take a second look at their postcards as they may contain valuable information on these subjects.

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Notice to the Romanian Philatelic Clubs

County chapters of the Philatelists' Association of Romania (Filialele Judetene A.F.R.) which are missing any issues of the Romanian Philatelic Studies, should send a note to the editor indicating which ones are required. They will receive free copies for their libraries.

Another Typographical Error on the Paris-Bucharest Issue

SILVIU DRAGOMIR

Str. Biserica Popa Chitu No. 17, 70268 Bucharest, Romania.

In the Romanian Philatelic Studies, no. 2/1980, I presented four typographical errors for the Paris-Bucharest issues. Some of these errors had been reported before in the philatelic literature but had never been illustrated (such as the *"goat beard"* and the *"double impression"*), while others were reported in my article for the first time (the *"bird on the moon"* and the *"5 bani without nose"*).

Recently I found another typographical error on Scott #72 of the Bucharest II issue. It is the 50 bani with *"P"* missing from *"POSTA"*.

These are not constant errors found on a large number of stamps which could be traced to a certain position in sheet, rather printing process errors found on only one or just a few stamps.

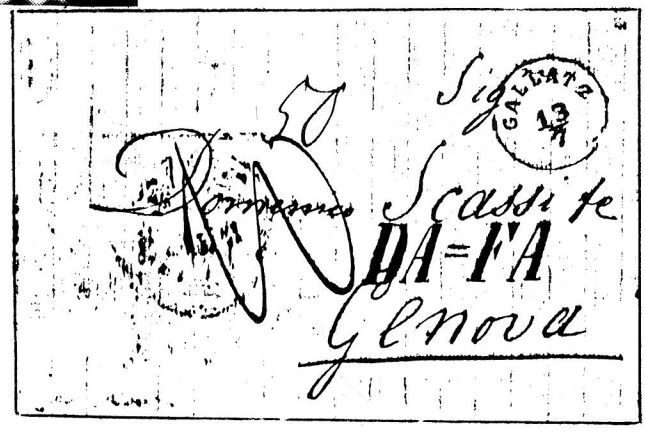
I also would like to call the reader's attention to the beautiful and scarce *"BABA-DAGH"* (in Dobrudja) marking, dated *"4 APR 81"*.

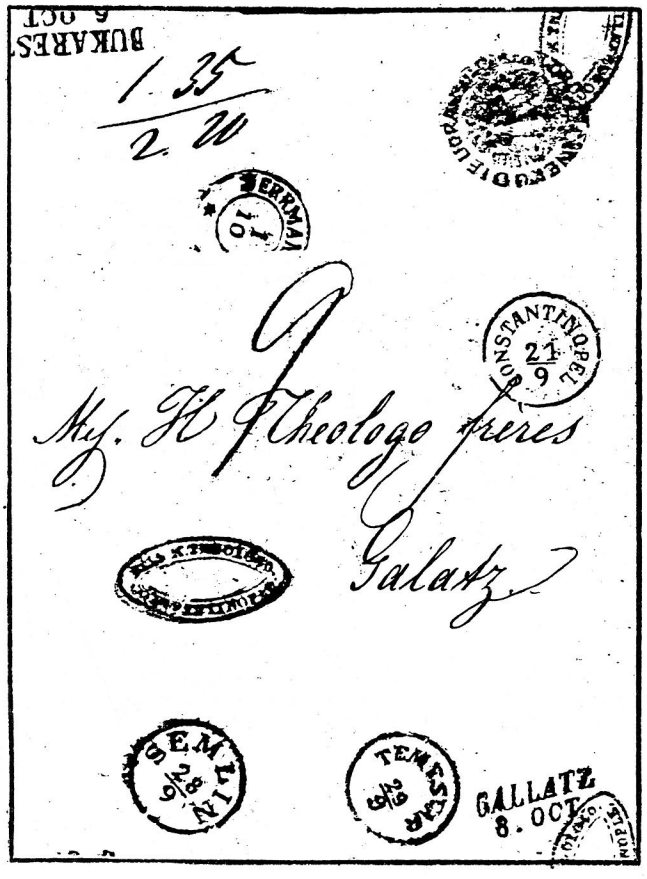
What is the "DA=FA" Marking?

LADISLAU ROTHMAN, 29 Metzada Street, Ramat Gan, Israel

A cover mailed in 1862 from GALLATZ (on 13/7) to GENOVA (Italy), through the Austrian consular posts, thus via Vienna, displays a marking unknown to me. It reads *"DA=FA"* and is applied in black.

I would appreciate if anybody familiar with this marking would let me know where it was applied and what was its purpose.





A Complex CONSTANTINOPLE - GALATZ Postal Route

Dr. Luciano De Zanche, Galleria Ognissanti 25, 35100 Padova, Italy.

A cover in my personal collection, had a postal route similiar to that described by Mr. Ladislau Rothman in Romanian Philatelic Studies, no.4/1982. While Mr. Rothman's cover went from Galatz to Constantinople, my cover went in the opposite direction, from Constantinople to Galatz. Both were sent from one branch of the *"Theologo"* Trading Company to another.

According to the postal markings, my cover was mailed from *"CONSTANTINOPEL"* on 21/9 (Sept. 21) through the Austrian consular posts, went through *"SEMLIN"* on *"28/9"* (Sept. 28), *"TEMESVAR"* on *"29/9"* (Sept. 29), *"HERRMANNSTADT"* on *"1/10"* (Oct. 1), *"BUKAREST"* on *"6. OCT"* and arrived at *"GALLATZ"* on *"8. OCT"*. At Semlin it was disinfected and the marking *"NETO DI FUORA ET DI DENTRO"* was struck on the back to attest to this.

Unfortunately, The letter's text does not tell us the year of mailing, but I presume it was either 1854, 1855 or 1856 as the *"BUKAREST/date"* postmark was first introduced during the Austrian occupation of Walachia (Crimean War).

I believe that the war was the reason for this complex postal route. Another possible cause might be the silting up of the mouths of the Danube River.

The letter presented by Mr. Rothman could not bear any stamp because stamps were not introduced by the Austrian post offices in the Levant until 1863. Furthermore, no stamps (even if they had existed) would have been affixed at Herrmannstadt, for who would have paid for them?

It is interesting to note that both covers bear handwritten rate markings *"2.20"* and *"9"*. Very probably, *"9"* refers to *"9 Kreuzer"* but for what currency does *"2.20"* stand for?

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The Iron Guard Issues

By GEORGE PATAKI

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NOVEMBER, 1982

In-depth studies of a country's postal issues and the circumstances under which they were produced are not possible without knowledge of the history of the time in question. The "Garda de Fier" (Iron Guard) issues are among the most interesting produced during the World War II era. They were briefly described in my article "The Prohibited Issues of Romania".[1] To foster a better understanding of them, we give here some background historical information and present them in detail.

History

The Iron Guard movement was started under the name "Legiunea Arhanghelul Mihail" (Archangel Michael's Legion) on January 24, 1927, by Corneliu Zelea Codreanu. The name was later changed to "Garda de Fier" (Iron Guard) and once again in 1935 to "Totul pentru Tară" (Everything for the Country). A strongly nationalist movement, according to its opponents it was a fascist organization. While it included some dissident patriots who cared deeply for their country, it was joined by many hoodlums who, as was said, "gave fascism a bad name".

Its founder and supreme commander (the "Captain," as he was usually called), was born in Jassy, on September 13, 1899, the son of Johan Zilinski and Eliza Brauner. The father had adopted the name Codreanu and in 1901 had his name officially changed to Ioan Zelea Codreanu. In 1919, Codreanu entered Jassy Law School. Later he studied in Jena, Germany (1922) and Grenoble, France (1925). Codreanu was obsessed by anti-Semitic feelings. He and his legionnaires were responsible for numerous acts of violence, anti-Semitic atrocities and political assassinations. They were subjected to harsh persecutions and reprisals by government law enforcement agencies. On the night of April 16, 1938, Codreanu was arrested. On April 19, he was sentenced to six months prison for threatening Nicolae Iorga, a member of the government. On May 29, 1938, Codreanu and several legionnaire leaders were accused, tried and sentenced for anti-governmental activities. Codreanu got 10 years of hard labor. On the night of November 29/30, 1938, Codreanu and 13 other Iron Guard leaders were being transported from the Rîmnicul Sărat prison to Bucharest. On the orders of King Carol II they were strangled by the gendarmes guarding them. At Jilava prison the corpses were shot in the back to provide evidence that they had been "shot while trying to escape".

The Iron Guard's official color being green, its legionnaires wore green shirts, thus earning them the nickname "camasi verzi" (green shirts). When they came to power, many of them carried pistols as side-arms. They murdered many political opponents and Jews.

On February 10, 1938, Carol II, king of Romania since June 8, 1930, installed the "Carlist dictatorship", a government opposed by many, and especially by the Iron Guard movement. The Guard's legionnaires assassinated Armand Calinescu, the prime minister, in a coup d'etat attempt. Carol, as a reprisal, ordered the execution, without trial, of many legionnaires.

On September 4, 1940, Carol, under pressure from Nazi Germany, named General Ion Antonescu prime minister. On September 6, 1940, Carol was forced to abdicate in favor of his son Michael. On September 14, 1940, Gen. Antonescu formed a coalition government consisting of the military and legionnaires. With the military-fascist regime installed, Romania allied itself with Nazi Germany. Many opponents of the regime were killed or jailed, and numerous atrocities were committed. Due to dissension between themselves and the military, on January 21-23, 1941, the legionnaires staged a rebellion to remove Gen. Antonescu. The Romanian army put down the rebellion. Many Iron Guardists were jailed. Others escaped to Germany, where Hitler used them to blackmail Antonescu. After Antonescu proved to be a strong and loyal ally of Nazi Germany, no more need existed for the Iron Guard and Hitler put the legionnaires in concentration camps.

After World War II, the legionnaires, traditional enemies of the Communists, were jailed by the new Romanian government. Abroad, in Western Europe, especially in Spain, the legionnaires still have active organizations, as they have in South America and even in the United States.

Figure 1.

During the very short period the legionnaires participated in the government, four Iron Guard stamps and one souvenir sheet were issued.

Codreanu

On November 8, 1940, on the name day of Archangel Michael (the "patron saint" of the Iron Guard), the first stamp was issued (Scott B145), a semipostal picturing Codreanu (Figure 1) with a denomination of 7 lei + 30 lei. It is yellowish green on white unwatermarked gummed paper. The perforation is about 13½. Measuring 28¼ x 32¾ mm., its design size is 25 by 30 mm. The printing was 100,000 in sheets of 100, of which 20,000 were released to "Ajutorul Legionar" (Legionnaire Assistence), the charitable institution of the Iron Guard. The design is the work of Serban Zainea, whose name appears under the lower left corner. Zainea, who was not legionnaire, designed all of the Iron Guard as well as many other Romanian stamps. The Codreanu stamps were printed in the "Fabrica de Timbre" (Stamp Factory), as is indicated under the lower right corner. The top is inscribed "ROMANIA POSTA", while the right edge, read downward, shows "8 NOEMVRIE 1927-1940". The top left section displays the symbol of the Iron Guard, a cross behind a set of bars or grids (or an "iron guard"). The bottom features a slogan coined by the Ion Mota: "SĂ FACI CĂPITANE, O ȚARĂ CA SOARELE SFÂNT DE PE CER" (Captain, create a country like the holy sun in the sky). Allegedly, 10 sheets (totaling 1,000 stamps) were also issued imperforate, supposedly for the Department of Posts, but these imperforates have yet to be seen.

On previously issued Romanian semipostals, in general, the franking value of the stamps or of the set

1. Published in **The American Philatelist,** August 1982 (Vol. 96, No. 8, pp. 729-35, 768) and **Romanian Philatelic Studies,** No. 4, 1982.

had been much higher than the "contribution". However in this case, the "contribution" (30 lei) which was supposed to go, at least in part, to "Ajutorul Legionar" for aid of victims of the 1940 earthquake, was much higher than the franking value of the stamp (7 lei). It is no wonder that so few such stamps were actually used for postage. They were bought mostly by philatelists, dealers and/or Iron Guard members and sympathizers.

In Jassy, when the city had been declared "Legionnaire City", these stamps were also sold affixed (hinged) to small (about 165 by 105 mm., folded in two) white commemorative cardboard folders. The folders were sponsored by the Aurel Serafim legionnaire family using the stock released to "Ajutorul Legionar", with the profits to go to that charitable institution. The folder's cover as well as the stamp hinged inside the folder were canceled with a triple circle (30 mm., 29 mm. & 19.5 mm. diameters) commemorative marking produced by the General Directorate of Posts, reading "IAȘI ORAȘUL MIȘCARII LEGIONARE" (Jassy, the city of the legionnaire movement) with "8 NOV. 1940" and the symbolic iron guard in its center. According to notes published in 1940 in *Revista Societății Filatelice Române*, 400 such folders were printed, with 320 being distributed to German and Italian delegates and 80 going to legionnaire philatelists. Other notes say that these folders were also sold for 62 lei. A legionnaire philatelist living now in Spain states that 1,000 such folders were made.

Similar souvenir folders were made on November 30, 1940, in Bucharest. These covers (Figure 2) have at the top a green cross behind black bars, and below this symbol: "LEGIUNEA ARHANGHELUL MIHAIL/ AJUTORUL LEGIONAR" (Archangel Michael's Legion/ Legionnaire Assistance), a facsimile of a handwritten quotation: "Salut pe cei ce merg spre marea biruinta legionara. Corneliu Z Codreanu 1938" (I greet those who are going towards the great legionnaire victory. Corneliu Z Codreanu 1938"), and on the bottom: "BUCUREȘTI/ 30 NOEMBRIE 1938 - 30 NOEMBRIE 1940". The folder's cover

LEGIUNEA ARHANGHELUL MIHAIL
AJUTORUL LEGIONAR
Salut pe cei ce merg spre marea biruintă legionară. Corneliu Z Codreanu 1938
BUCUREȘTI
30 NOEMBRIE 1938 - 30 NOEMBRIE 1940
30 NOEMBRIE 1938
8 NOEMBRIE 1940
BUCUREȘTI

Figure 2.

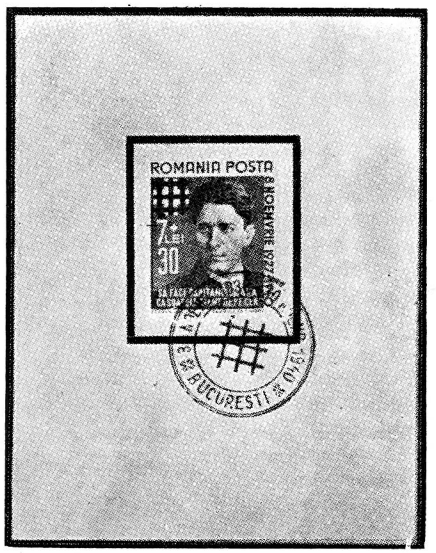

Figure 3.

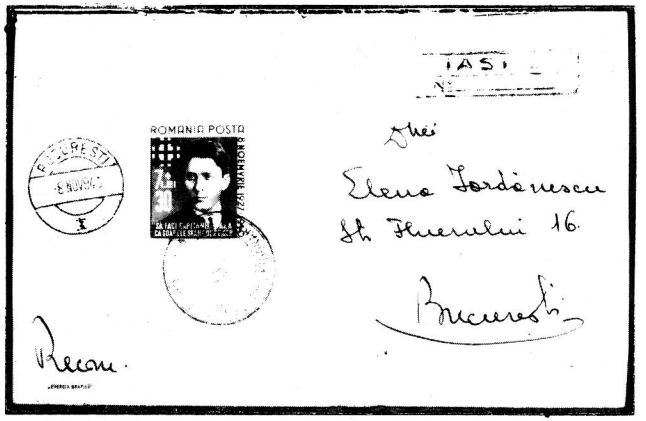

Figure 4.

bears the same special cancel as the stamp inside, hinged in the center of a black frame (Figure 3). This special marking, found on most of the canceled stamps, even on most of the postally used ones, is a triple circle type with 29.5 mm., 28.5 mm. & 19 mm. diameters, and a text that reads: "30 NOEMBRIE 1938 - 30 NOEMBRIE 1940 BUCUREȘTI", and the symbolic iron guard in the center. The number of these folders issued is not known; it was probably around 1,000.

Philatelists also affixed this stamp to pieces of blank paper (such as the reverse of telegram forms cut in half) and had it canceled with the commemorative marking. They also affixed the stamp on picture postcards (on the illustrated side) and had it favor cancelled on the first day of issue, for example with the ordinary "BUCURESTI 8 NOV 940", 28.5 mm. diameter, circular, dated town cancel.

Figure 4 shows a registered letter sent on November 8, 1940, from Jassy to Bucharest. It is quite possible that the cover was favor canceled in both cities because the 7 lei postage was not the required rate for such registered mail.

Codreanu Air Mail

On November 30, 1940, Romania issued its first air post semi-postal stamp (Scott CB1, Figure 5) with a denomination of 20 lei + 5 lei in a printing of 200,000. It is dark green on white unwatermarked gummed paper. Perforation is about 14. The stamp measures 42.5 by 26.5 mm. from perforation tip to perforation tip and the size of the design is 38 by 22 mm. The occasion was the second anniversary of the "Captain's" death and the reinterment of his remains at the "Casa Verde" (Green House), the headquarters in Bucharest. Around the Captain's portrait, in a circle, is the slogan: "IN 48 DE ORE DUPĂ BIRUINȚĂ VOM FI ALĂTURI DE AXA ROMA-BERLIN" (48 hours after victory we will be on the side of the Rome-Berlin Axis) which presents the political commitment of the Iron Guard,

Figure 5.

made by the Captain in 1936. At left of the portrait, inside the slogan circle, is "1936" and at right "1940", while the lower left corner shows "ROMA" and the lower right "BERLIN". The air mail designation "POSTA AERIANA" is at upper left. The Iron Guard symbol, the cross behind the bars, at upper right. At left appears "20 LEI+", the franking value of the stamp, while on the right is "5 LEI". its contributional value. The imprint under the left corner reads: "S.Z. CUIBUL LUCHIAN", "S.Z." being the initials of Serban Zainea, the designer, and "Cuibul Luchian" (Luchian Nest), the initiator of this issue. A "cuib" (nest) was the organizational unit of the Legionnaires. The imprint below the right corner is "FABRICA DE TIMBRE" (Stamp Factory), where the stamps were produced.

Scott's footnote states: "No. CB1 exists with overprint "1 MAI 1941 JAMBOREEA NATIONALA". This overprint indeed exists. These, however, could not be government overprints because after the January 21-23, 1941, rebellion, Iron Guardists were removed from public office and the Iron Guard stamps were no longer valid. Besides, according to accounts published shortly after this stamp was issued, it was sold out very fast, leaving the government no copies to overprint. Therefore, this overprint could only have been a private production. According to a reliable source in Bucharest, they were made in Spain by a legionnaire who became a stamp dealer.

Figure 6.

The overprint is generally red, although green overprints are also known. Likewise, "errors" such as inverted and double (both in red) are to be found. Overprint proofs were made by gluing these stamps on cardboard and then applying the overprint. There are even "errors" of such proofs in that the overprint is vertically shifted so that a portion falls on the cardboard, instead of the stamp; double overprints (Figure 6), etc. Too many "errors" should make anybody suspicious.

Figure 7.

On the first day of issue, the air mail stamps were canceled with a special commemorative marking made by the General Directorate of Posts. It is a triple circle type, 29.5 mm., 28.5 mm. & 19.5 mm in diameters, with the text: "30 NOEMB. 1938 - 30 NOEMB . 1940, BUCURESTI" and with the iron bars in the center.

According to the note published in 1940, at the initiative of the "Aurel Serafim legionnaire family" of Ilfov county, 4,000 commemorative folders were printed: 1,800 having singles and 200 blocks of four (sold at the post offices for 220 lei) of the Nov. 8 issue (Scott B145) and 1,800 with singles and 200 with blocks of four (also sold for 220 lei at the post offices) of the Nov. 30 issue (Air Mail, Scott CB1), all obliterated with the special cancel. However, no one I have talked to ever saw folders with blocks of four.

The size of the folder is about 165 by 105 mm., it is folded in two and is identical in design and text to the one with the first Codreanu issue, but the stamp is hinged in the center of a thicker (1.5 mm.) black frame (Figure 7).

On December 1, 1940, commemorating the unification of "Ardeal" (comprising the provinces of Transylvania, Crisana and Banat) with Romania, in the city of Alba Iulia, these stamps were canceled with a special triple circle type commemorative marking (31 mm., 30 mm. and 21.5 mm, in diameter), made by the General Directorate of Posts, reading: "ALBA IULIA, CETATEA UNIRII TUTUROR ROMÂNILOR" (Alba-Iulia, the Fortress of the Unification of all Romanians) and in its center is "1. DEC. 1940" and the symbolic bars.

Once again, the Aurel Serafim legionnaire family initiated the making of souvenir folders with both types of Iron Gurads stamps, the front cover and the inside stamp being canceled with the "Alba-Iulia" special marking. The size of the folders is the same as the ones previously described (about 165 by 105 mm., folded in two). The folder's cover (Figure 8) has on the top the Iron Guard symbol (Cross behind bars), below is a text "LEGIUNEA ARHANGHELUL MIHAIL/ AJUTORUL LEGIONAR", which is identical with the text of the folders previously made and sold in Bucharest, but at the

Figure 8.

bottom it reads: 'ALBA-IULA/ 1 DECEMBRIE 1940" and the Codreanu quotation is missing. Both the cover and the stamp hinged inside bear the "Alba-Iulia" special cancel.

The article "Timbrele postale legionare si insemnatatea lor istorica" (The legionnaire postal stamps and the historical significance") published in *Revista Societății Filatelice Române,* no. 11-12/1940 gives erroneous information. It says that 1,500 such folders were printed (but lists 1,700) as follows:

"500 folders with the Nov. 8, 1940 stamp,

700 folders with the Nov. 30, 1940 stamp,

200 large folders with blocks of four of the Nov. 8 and blocks of four of the Nov. 30, 1940, stamps.

300 large folders with the Nov. 30, 1940, stamp, single.

Approved by the General Directorate of Posts, these folders were sold at the post offices for 220 lei for the ones with blocks of four, and 60 lei the small folders."

As in the previous cases, none of the old collectors and dealers I interviewed for this study ever saw or heard of folders with blocks of four or "large" folders.

The profits made by selling the folders (and was quite a profit considering the price of the stamps, 37 and 25 lei, and the price of the folders) went to "Ajutorul Legionar" for relief operations undertaken by the Aurel Serafim family.

All the commemorative folders were printed at the Popov printing plant.

Marin-Moța Issue

On January 13, 1941, the fourth anniversary of the deaths at Majadahonda, Spain, of two legionnaires, Vasile Marin and Ion Moța, fighting in the Civil War on the Franco side, 100,000 sets of two semipostal stamps (Figure 9) and 20,000 souvenir sheets (Figure 10) were issued. Of these, 20,000 sets of stamps and 8,000 sheets were released to "Ajutorul Legionar" to be sold to their own benefit. One of the stamps (Scott 146), with the portrait of Vasile Marin and a denomination of 7 + 7 lei, is red brown; the other (Scott 147) with a portrait of Ion Moța and a denomination of 15 + 15 lei, is blue. Ion Moța was

Figure 9.

the husband of Codreanu's sister. Both stamps have the same basic design, with the "Archangel Michael," the guardian angel of the Iron Guard, on the left and the portrait on the right. They are on white unwatermarked gummed paper, perf. about 13½. The size, from perforation tip to perforation tip is 33.5 by 28.5 mm., the design only is 30 by 25 mm. The stamps as well as the souvenir sheets were designed by Serban Zainea, and the printing done at the "Fabrica de Timbre".

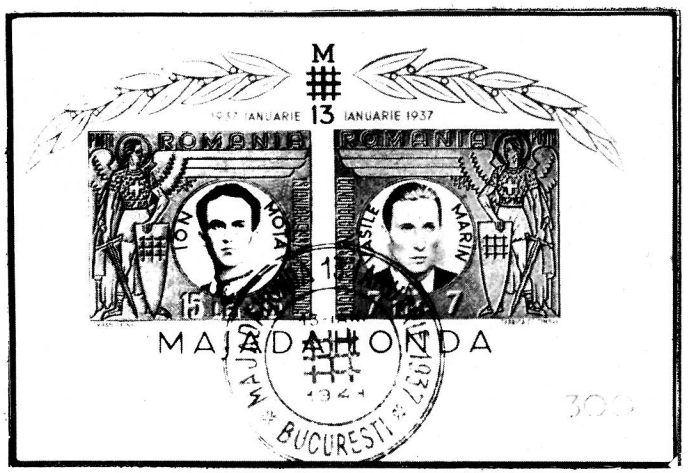

Figure 10.

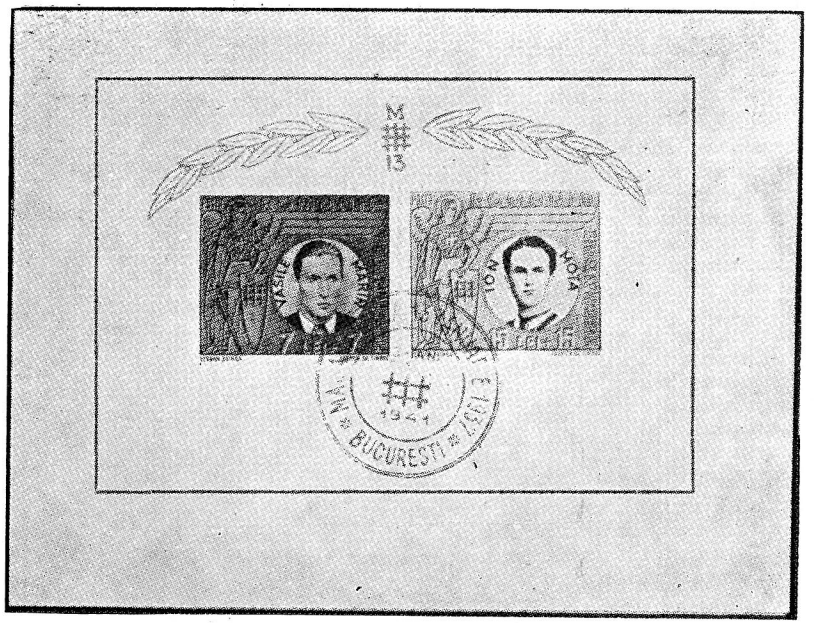

Figure 11.

The souvenir sheet (Scott B147) is dark green on white unwatermarked gummed paper, imperforate and 88.5-89.5 by 56.5-58.5 mm. in size. It pictures the Marin-Moța stamps but on the Marin stamp, at the right, for a better symmetry the positions of the portrait and Archangel Michael were reversed. Under the stamps is written "MAJADAHONDA", at the top there are two decorative branches with leaves, the letter "M", (probably for "Majadahonda") the legionnaire grid, "1937

Figure 12.

IANUARIE 13 IANUARIE 1937" (for the fourth anniversary of 13th of January 1937 when the two legionnaires were killed during a bombardment). In the lower right corner is the selling price "LEI 300". The sheets were sold both mint and canceled with the special "Majadahonda" marking.

"Ajutorul Legionar" prepared 1,000 commemorative folders, 250 by 95 mm. in size, folded in two, with hinged pairs of the Marin-Mota stamps (Figure 11), selling for 100 lei a folder, and 1,000 folders (same size as above) with a hinged souvenir sheet, selling for 300 lei a folder. The stamps, and the souvenirs hinged in these folders, the covers, as well as some unaffixed souvenir sheets were canceled with a special commemorative, triple circle marking (the outside circle is double), 29.5 and 28.5 and 18.0 mm., with the text between the outside double circle and the inside circle: "MAJADAHONDA 13 IANUARIE 1937 BUCURESTI" and in the center "13-IAN. 1941" and the symbolic bars.

The folder's cover (Figure 12) for both the Marin-Mota stamps and souvenir sheets, has at top center a cross behind bars. Below it is: "LEGIUNEA ARHANGHELUL MIHAIL / AJUTORUL LEGIONAR" followed by a quote attributed to Ion Mota, in script letters: "Eu asa am inteles datoria vietii mele. Am iubit pe Cristos si am mers fericit la moarte pentru El!" (This way I understood the duty of my life. I loved Christ and I went gladly to death for Him!) and his signature "Ion I. Mota". On the bottom is "BUCURESTI / 13 IANUARIE 1941".

Despite the high surcharges and the differences between the prevailing postal rates and the denomination of these stamps they were sometimes used for postage, but most of the covers were philatelically made (Figure 13). Often the covers were overfranked in order to use both stamps of the stamps.

Figure 14 shows a philatelically franked but postally used cover (it has a backstamp arrival marking) bearing all four Iron Guard stamps, thus exceeding the postal requirement.

Figure 15 is a philatelic cover which is "too good to be true". It is beautifully franked with all the

Figure 13.

Figure 14.

Iron Guard stamps, some even in pairs (and two King Michael definitives), and was sent "Registered" and "Express" from Sibiu to Sibiu. It is unlikely that anyone would send through the post office a piece of mail to a local addressee of a small town. Then, according to the Sibiu date cancel, it was mailed on May 9, 1941, more than 3½ months after the Iron Guard rebellion was crushed and their stamps were not only withdrawn but were specifically and strictly forbidden. This cover could not pass the postal circuit at that time, thus, without any doubt, it was favor cancelled.

Ajutorul Legionar Labels

To create more revenue for the activities of the Iron Guard, special vignettes (labels) were printed and sold (Figure 16). These were bought both voluntarily by legionaires, supporters of the legionnaires and under pressure by people who did not want to antagonize the legionnaires who were selling them. The vignettes called "Ajutorul Legionar" (Legionnaire Assistance) are green and black, on white unwatermarked gummed paper, perf.

Figure 15.

13½. The size, from perforation tip to perforation tip is 28 by 33 mm., the design's size is 25 by 30 mm. In the center is the symbol of the Iron Guard, a green cross behind a black bar. The text reads: "AJUTORUL LEGIONAR LEU 1 LEU" and under the lower left corner: "CUIBUL LUCHIAN" (Luchian Nest), and under the lower right corner: "FABRICA DE TIMBRE" (Stamp Factory).

Figure 16.

Two other vignettes were also made (Figure 17) both with the same design but one printed in green, the other in brown. They show the portrait of Codreanu, the denomination "5 LEI". At the top is: "AJUTORUL LEGIONAR", at the bottom the slogan: "AJUTA-TI FRATELE CĂZUT IN NENOROCIRE, NU-L LĂSA!" (Help your brother fallen in misfortune, don't leave him!) and the signature "Corneliu Z Codreanu". Below the design, on the left is "CUIBUL LUCHIAN" and the right is "FABRICA DE TIMBRE". The paper is white, unwatermarked, gummed, the perforation is 13½. The vignette's size, from perforation tip to perforation tip is 28 by 33 mm., and the design size is 25 by 30 mm.

Figure 17.

These vignettes are not postage stamps and had no franking validity. They were rather receipts attesting a contribution to the Iron Guard relief fund. However, some of them were affixed on covers, near postage stamps, for propaganda reasons, and were canceled and postally circulated.

Conclusions

The Iron Guard stamps, especially the postally used ones, are much scarcer than the catalogue prices would lead us to believe. There are several reasons for their scarcity:

1. They were issued in relative small quantities (100,000-200,000).

2. Being semipostal stamps, they were seldom used for postage because of their high face value as compared with their franking value.

3. They were used for a short time from the days of their issue to the crushing of the Iron Guard rebellion and their withdrawal. The longest use was about 2½ months (from November 8, 1940, until January 21/23, 1941, while the shortest use was about 8-10 days (from January 13, 1941 to January 21/23, 1941).

4. Many of these stamps and souvenir sheets were destroyed by their owners residing in Romania because they were afraid if the authorities found them in their possession they could be accused of being Iron Guard sympathizers.

It must be emphasized that the number of souvenir folders prepared on various occasions is not known for sure; the available data is incomplete and contradictory.

No Iron Guard postal stationery of any kind was ever issued and none of the Iron Guard issues were ever counterfeited. However, any overprint on these issues is unofficial.

Beware of favor canceled covers which were never used postally, especially when they are beautifully franked much above the postal requirements.

In Romania, even today, more than 40 years after their issue, the Iron Guard stamps and souvenir sheet are considered prohibited; they are not listed in catalogues, not allowed to be exhibited, mentioned in philatelic publications or even traded in clubs. Nevertheless they exist and tell the story of a short but violent episode in Romanian history.

1944-45
TRANSYLVANIAN LOCALS

Want to buy or trade for varieties, proofs, essays, covers etc. Especially need several Odorheiu overprints and the Satu-Mare fantasy set. Have several "Posta Salajului" overprints to sell or trade. Also interested in Post-WW II locals from other European countries.

Jay T. Carrigan
12000 Fairfax Station Road
Fairfax Station, VA. 22039

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The Romanian TRANSNISTRIA Issues

By George Pataki

Romania entered World War II on June 22, 1941 when, as an an ally of Nazi Germany, it attacked the Soviet Union by crossing the Pruth River and retaking Bessarabia. Shortly thereafter, Romanian armies also crossed the Dniester River, occupied the province of Transnistria and set up there a Romanian administration which lasted about three years. To commemorate these events, three sets of stamps and a set of three souvenir sheets were issued. These have been described briefly in my article, "The Prohitbited Issued of Romania," published in both "The American Philatelist" (August 1982) and "Romanian Philatelic Studies" (No. 4 of 1982).

These issues are not allowed to be listed in Romanian catalogues, nor to be described, mentioned or illustrated in native publications, presented in exhibitions or even traded in their clubs. Not too much information has ever been published about these issues. Therefore, we will describe them here in detail.

Figure 1.

Figure 2

Figure 3

TRANSNISTRIA I

On October 6, 1941, three stamps, Scott #517-519 (Fig. 1), 6 lei light brown, 12 lei dark violet and 24 lei blue, were issued to mark the occupation of Transnistria, a Soviet territory located between the Dniester ("Nistru" in Romanian) and Bug Rivers (Fig. 2).

The stamps were designed by Ioan Baltag, whose name appears in the lower left corners, and were printed at the "Fabrica de Timbre" (Stamp Factory) in Bucharest, and this is marked in the lower right corners. All three stamps show the same design, a portrayal of the Moldavian prince Gheorghe Duca holding a model of a monastery founded by him. He once ruled over the Ukraine, which includes Transnistria. This symbolically showed that the Romania has historical rights to this territory. Being a sensitive political matter, best not talked about, this issue has become prohibited in today's Romania.

The following quantities were issued: 6 lei—924,000; 12 lei—946,000 and 24 lei—964,000. The size of the stamps, from perforation tip to perforation tip is 28 by 33 mm., while the design measures 24½ by 29¾ mm. The paper is white and the watermark is type XIII (Fig. 3), also called "C.C." (crown over "II" and "C" and "C" back to back, "C.C." being the initials of King Carol II) while the perf. gauges 13½.

These stamps were to be used only in Transnistria and the other occupied territories, east of the river Bug. Fig. 4 shows the correspondence side of a picture postcard (illustrating the "Arcadia" section of Odessa), bearing a 24 lei blue stamp of the Transnistria I issue. Odessa is located on the Black Sea, in Transnistria, southern Ukraine. The stamp is obliterated by an "ODESSA TRANZIT" marking but its date is illegible. The card also bears a "CENZURAT ODESSA/No. 9" censor marking. As it was sent to Timisoara, tis item proves that these stamps could be used on mail going outside Transnistria; thus, it was not a local issue. It arrived at its destination, according to the "TIMISOARA I" arrival marking, on "14 AUG.43".

The cover shown in Fig. 5 bears five 6 lei brown stamps and a 24 lei blue stamp (the denomination on the top is covered by another stamp), for a total postage of 54 lei. The stamps all belong to the Transnistria I issue. This cover was mailed on April 14, 1943, from BIRZULA to the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, Switzerland. On the back of the cover is a Romanian "CENSURAT/9" censor marking and a Swiss "GENEVE 1, DISTR. LETTRES, 25.IV.43.21" arrival marking, attesting that it arrived there on April 25, 1943, at 21:00 hours. This cover proves that, despite the fact that these stamps could be used only on mail originating in Transnistria (and the other occupied territories), they were officially recognized and they could be used even on international mail.

A postal card was also issued (H&G #107). It is brown on buff paper and measures about 146 by 105 mm. (Fig. 6). The imprinted stamp's denomination is 6 lei (the rate for postal cards and picture postcards). It is similar in design to Scott #517 (but smaller in size) of the above-described set. Both H&G and Michel wrongly give the year of issue for this card as "1943." I have such a card (Fig. 7) mailed from RAZDELNAIA, Transnistria, to Bucharest, on October 3, 1942. This would indicate that it was probably issued in 1941 at about the same time as the stamps presented above, rather than in 1943. Michel also lists a 12 lei card, in blue on buff paper, stating that it is smaller than the 6 lei card and that it was issued in 1943. Considering the inflation prevailing in those years, and in the light of its higher denomination, it is quite possible that this second card was indeed issued in 1943.

Fig. 8 illustrates a military postal card (H&G #100) mailed by a civilian from the city of Tiraspol (in Transnistria, across the Dniester River from the Bessarabian city of Tighina). This card, mailed on February 16, 1942, has the 6 lei affixed Transnistria stamp obliterated with a "TIRASPOL" postal marking (date illegible), as well as a "ROSIORI DE VEDE" arrival marking dated "19 FEB 942" It was written by a postal employee detailed to the territory, to his former superior, the supervisor of the Rosiori de Vede post office. The card also shows a framed "CENZURAT" censor marking and a "TURNU MAGURELE/TELEORMAN" transit marking dated "18 FEB 942." While military personnel enjoyed free or reduced franking, Romanian civil servants assigned to the newly acquired territories, as well as their families,

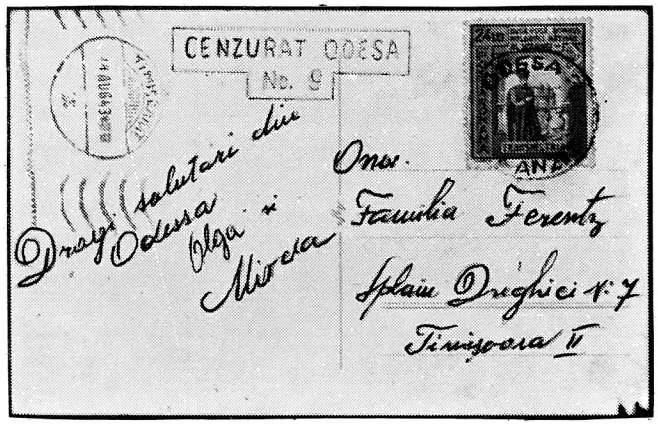

Figure 4.

Figure 5.

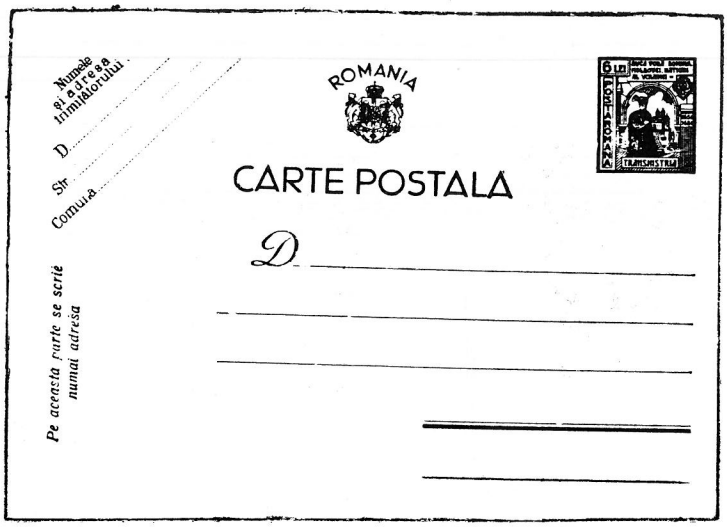

Figure 6.

Figure 7.

Figure 8.

used Transnistria stamps on their correspondence.

TRANSNISTRIA - Souvenir Sheets

In 1943, the Autonomous (Civilian) Government of Transnistria ordered from the "Fabrica de Timbre" (Stamp Factory), in Bucharest, 20,000 sets of three souvenir sheets (Fig. 9). These were to have been sold for 300 lei per sheet by the Romanian Red Cross (not by the post offices) to help collect funds for its activities. Although they were scheduled for release on April 30, 1943, the central government did not approve of this arrangement, and the sheets were kept in vaults until 1946, at which time they were sold to stamp dealers.

Each sheet contains four identical imperforate stamps (6 lei - dark brown; 12 lei dark violet and 24 lei blue). On the top the text reads: "GUVERNAMANTUL CIVIL AL TRANSNISTRIEI" (Civilian Government of Transnistria), and on the bottom: "PENTRU CRUCEA ROSIE/1943 LEI 300" (For the Red Cross/1943 300 lei). The sheets measure about 70 by 89 mm., are ungummed and have watermark XIII (C.C.).

TRANSNISTRIA, FIRST ANNIVERSARY

A set of three semi-postal stamps, Scott #B192-194 (Fig. 10), were issued in December 1942, to commemorate the completion of one year of occupation of Transnistria. These were to be used only in the newly acquired territories east of the river Dniester. The same design appears on all three stamps, B192—6+44 lei, sepia; B193—12+38 lei, violet and B194—24+26 lei, blue. It

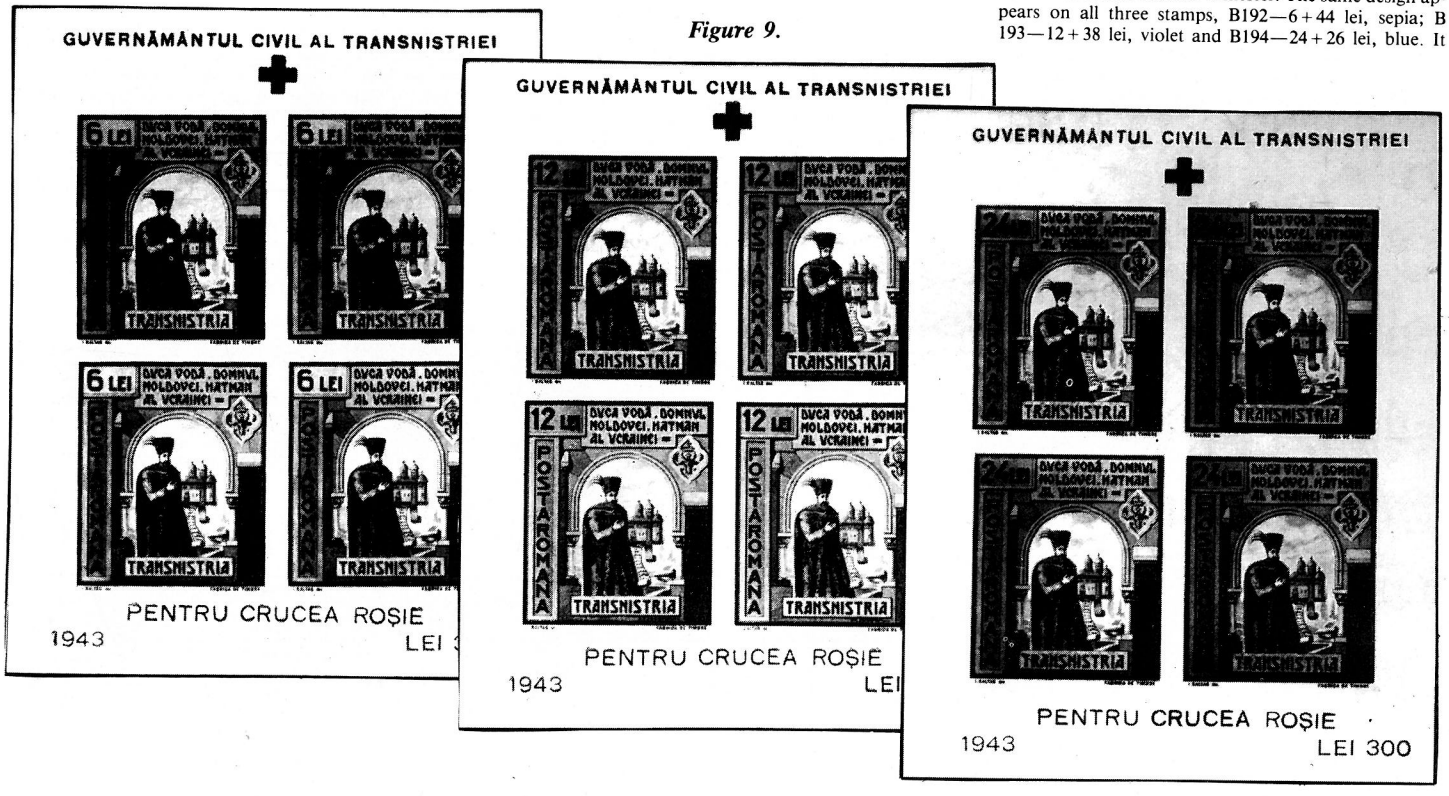

Figure 9.

depicts the monument to Moldavian historian, Miron Costin, at Jassy. The stamps display, in addition to the respective denominations and the words "POSTA ROMANA" (Romanian Posts), the inscription "TRANSNISTRIA/ UN AN DE LA CUCERIRE" (Transnistria/ one year since the conquest). The size of the stamps, from perforation tip to perforation tip is about 26 by 42 mm., and the design measures 22 by 37¼ mm. The paper is white, the perf. gauges 13½ and the watermark is type XIII (C.C.). 50,000 sets were issued in sheets of 50 stamps. Very few were used for postage mainly because they very high surcharges would have made such postal use uneconomincal and because of the relatively small number of would-be users (Romanian civilians living in Transnistria).

Transnistria was part of the Soviet Union (Ukraine) before the war and it was reoccupied by the Soviet armies in the latter part of the war. The temporary occupation by the Romanian armies and the atrocities committed there by them (in Odessa alone they slaughtered 60,000 Jews), as well as the inhumanities practiced in ghettos, labor camps and concentration camps set up there (in Shargorod, Pechora, Tulchin, Balta, Bershad, Trostyanetz, Bogdanovka, Golta, Yampol, Moghilev-Podolsk, Rimnitsa, Tiraspol. Vijnita, Odessa, etc.) for Soviet Jews and deportees mostly from Bukovina and Bessarabia. In Vertujen, 23,000 Jews were killed by starvation and typhus, while in three camps in the Golta prefecture 70,000 Jews were massacred. These are events about which Romanians don't like to be reminded; therefore, this issue is also prohibited.

Valeriu D. Martin, in "Revista Societatil Filatelice Romane" (The Magazine of the Romanian Philatelic Society) of Jan.-Feb. 1943, reported two varieties: on B194, the 24 + 26 lei blue, sheet position 50 (the last stamp in the last row), has a small colored dot about 2 mm. right of the forehead. On the same denomination, position 29 (the 9th stamp of the 3rd row) has a small dot between the left vertical frame line and the statue's arm. Both these varieties are constant, and thus each can be found on 1,000 stamps.

If these stamps, as many issued during that period, were printed in sheets of 100 with as many cliches, then cut in half and put on sale in sheets of 50, then these constant varieties would be found only on 500 stamps.

Dem. Ionescu, in this magazine (Sept.-Oct. 1943), reported two other varieties: on B194, a small dot is found under the second letter "A" of the word "ROMANA" near the right vertical frame line. This, however, is less visible than the other two varieties. On the B193, 12 + 38 lei violet variety, the watermark ("C.C.") is in vertical position (pos. 1 or 2), upright or inverted (Fig. 11), instead of the commonly found positions (pos. 3 or 4) which are horizontal (turned 90° to the left or to the right); it is estimated that about 10 sheets (500 stamps) show this watermark variety.

TRANSNISTRIA II

This issue consists of four stamps sharing a common design (Fig. 12), identical to that of the Transnistria I stamps, but for one new denomination: 3 lei. These stamps, Scott #554-557, 3 lei red orange, 6 lei dull brown, 12 lei dull violet and 24 lei blue, were, like the first issue, designed by Ioan Baltag and printed at the "Fabrica de Timbre" in Bucharest. The paper is white, the perf. gauges 13½ and the watermark is of the type XIV (Fig. 13) (crosses and crowns, also known as "M.M.," which stands for "Majesty Michael"). Issued in 1943 (exact date unknown), they too could be used only in Transnistria and the occupied territories east of the river Bug.

Figure 10.

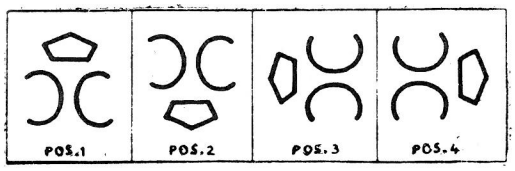

Figure 11.

Figure 12.

Transnistria II stamps were in use for only about one year, as the offensive of the Soviet armies caused Romanian troops and the Romanmian administration to be withdrawn from Transnistria in 1944. Therefore, Transnistria II stamps are scarcer postally used than Transnistria I stamps which could have been used for a longer period.

As the previously described issues, this one likewise brings back the same bad memories and it is thus prohibited.

CONCLUSION

All the above described stamps and souvenir sheets were printed by the photogravure process at the "Fabrica de Timbre" in Bucharest. None of them have ever been counterfeited. Many mint stamps and souvenir sheets were destroyed by their owners because these issues, among a couple of others, were designated by the Romanian authories as "prohibited." Correspondence franked with these stamps, has also been destroyed because it might have been used as proof that a friend or family member served in Transnistria and could thus be accused of various wrongdoings. Therefore, these stamps are much scarcer, especially postally used, than the prices listed in Scott would suggest; they are very much underpriced.

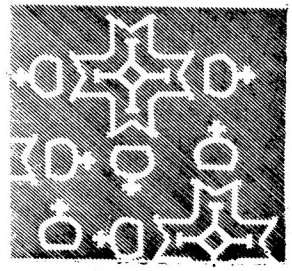

Figure 13.

Reprinted from The Post Rider-Yamshchik, May 1982

A SPECIAL WARNING ABOUT THE SO-CALLED ISSUE FOR THE ROUMANIAN OCCUPATION OF ODESSA.

Since we are on a Roumanian "kick" in this issue of "The Post-Rider", it would be as well to remind our readers that the four surcharges "8" on 5 kop., "10" on 15 kop., "25" on 30 kop. and "50" on 60 kop., as well as double overprints of the same, applied on the relevant Soviet definitives and purporting to be an issue of the Roumanian Occupation of Odessa during 1941 are BOGUS.

They are listed in the Michel catalogue for the healthy sum of DM400.- per set, as well as in Zumstein. In actual fact, they were "issued" in New York City, shortly after the fall of Odessa to the Axis forces in October 1941.We know who was behind the preparation of these surcharges and, when he finally kicks the bucket, we will reveal all the details of these and others of his "productions".

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Slogan Handstamps, 1941-1952

Mircea Teleguț, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timișoara, Romania

Applying slogan markings on mail is an efficient way to publicize ideas, reccomendations, or various messages from authorities to the public. The mails help to easily and speedily reach out to every corner of a country. Many such slogan markings have been accompanied by a town and date cancel to obliterate the stamps, with the duplex marking being applied by mechanical devices, such as rollers, on the upper part of covers and postcards, where stamps are normally affixed or imprinted.

Don Heller's *"Postal Markings of the Bucharest Gara de Nord, 1873 to 1947"* (Romanian Philatelic Studies, nos. 3/1979 and 1/1980) presented a large number of such markings, here we illustrate one which reads *"ESTE OPRIT A SE INTRODUCE IN SCRISORI BANI SAU ALTE OBIECTE"* (It is forbidden to enclose money or other objects in letters).

During World War II, and the period following, besides the machine applied slogan and dated town combinations, other slogan markings were handstamped on mail. Their purpose was not to cancel stamps, but rather to disseminate various propaganda and/or instructions. Therefore, these markings accurately reflect the government's philosophy.

Listed below are some handstamped slogans. These are divided into five groups, for various time periods and each expressing a different idea. The translation in parentheses, then the date and locality where the marking was used follow each listing; if the locality could not positively be established, both the mailer's and the recipient's localities are listed:

1. The World War II period is characterized by use of a large number of markings to inform the public about measures and recommendations of the military and civilian authorities, concerning the country's state of war. Romania entered the war in June 1941. There slogans began to appear the very first month.

The following slogan markings have rectangular frames with bevelled corners:

"UNIREA, MUNCA SI TACEREA FAC PUTEREA" (Unity, work and silence create power), June 25, 1941, Ploiești.

"PĂSTREAZĂ SECRETELE ȚĂRII" (Safeguard the country's secrets), July 20, 1941, Bucuresti.

"ROMANIA A ROMANILOR" (Romania belongs to Romanians), Aug. 4, 1941, Rusca Montana.

"DREPTATEA INVINGE" (Justice triumphs), Aug. 4, 1941, Bocșa Montana.

"CREDE SI VEI BIRUI" (Believe and you shall be victorious), Aug. 20, 1941, Făgăraș.

The slogans of another group used during the same period, all of which are in rectangular frames, contain recommendations to buy *"reunification bonds"* to support the war effort:

"AI SUBSCRIS LA IMPRUMUTUL REINTREGIRII?" (Have you subscribed for reunification bonds?), Aug. 12, 1941, Caracal, Timișoara.

"SUBSCRIETI TOTI LA IMPRUMUTUL REINTREGIRII" (Everybody should subscribe for reunification bonds), Sept. 18, 1941, Turnu Severin, Timișoara.

"SUBSCRIEȚI ROMÂNI LA ÎMPRUMUTUL REÎNTREGIRII" (Romanians, subscribe for reunification bonds), Oct. 18, 1941, Caracal, Timișoara.

"CONTRIBUITI SI VOI LA REINTREGIRE SUBSCRIIND IMPRUMUTUL" (You also contribute to reunification by subscribing for the bond), Sept. 20, 1941, Brăila, Jebel.

2. The period after the first election (1946) brings in markings containing a simplified drawing of the sun, the electoral symbol of the *"Popular Democratic Front"* (a coalition of various political parties). These markings are frameless:

"Trăiască Frontul Democrației Populare VOTAȚI SOARELE" (Long live the Popular Democratic Front Vote for the sun), Oct. 11, 1946, Timișoara, Jimbolia.

"VOTAȚI B.P.D." (Vote for B.P.D.), Oct. 14, 1946, Timisoara, Ferdinand. *"B.P.D."* stands for *"Block of the Democratic Parties"*.

3. Commencing Aug. 15, 1947, the monetary reform which followed a period of inflation, yields the following frameless marking:

"Nici un ban peste prețul oficial" (Not one ban over the official price), Oct. 20, 1947, București, Timișoara.

Another marking, in a similiar spirit, is known: *"Svonul trece, leul nou ramane"* (The rumor shall go away; the new leu shall stay.)

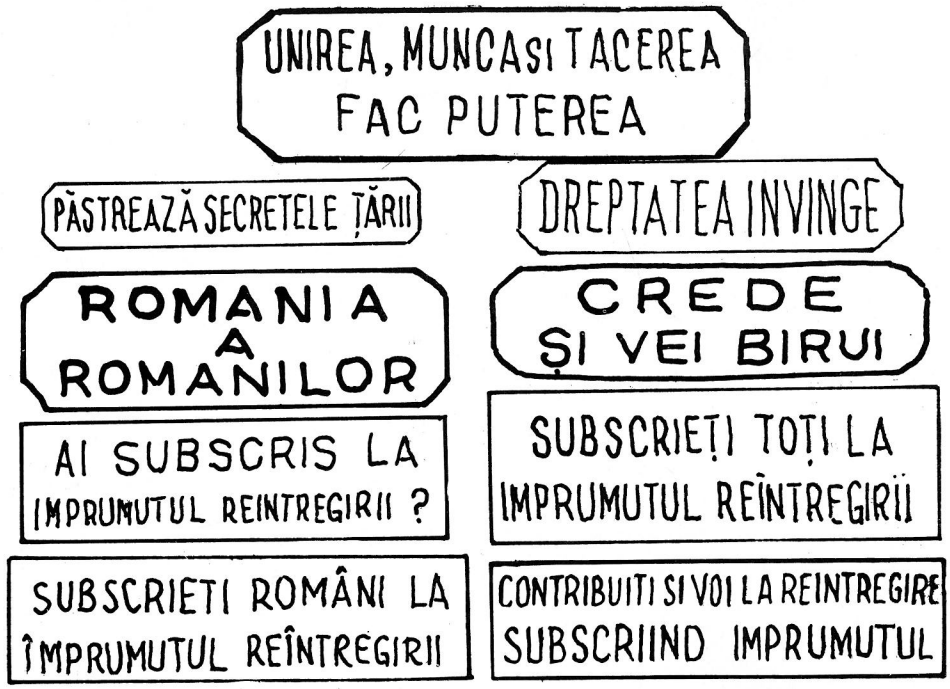
4. During the period after the proclamation of the republic (Dec. 30, 1947) brought into use the following frameless slogan marking:

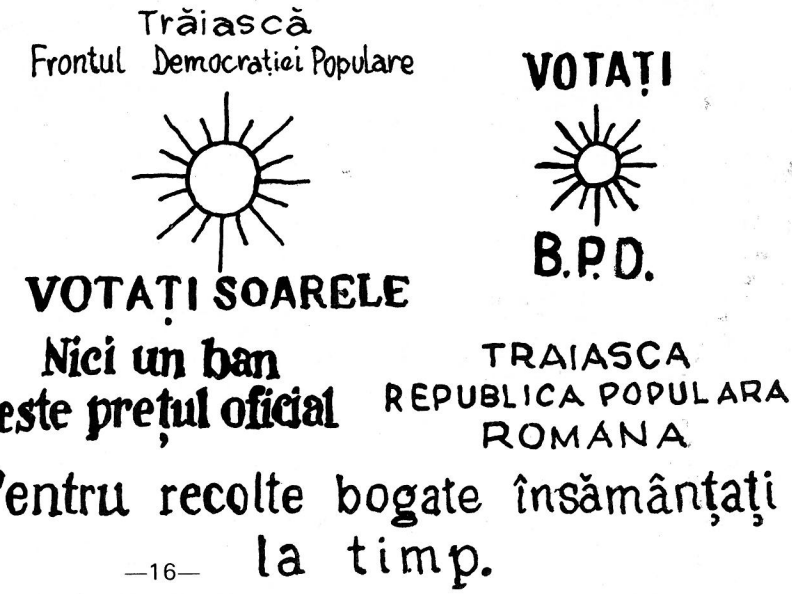
"TRAIASCA REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMANA" (Long live the People's Republic of Romania), Feb. 7, 1948, Arad, Timișoara.

5. The period of collectivization of agriculture ushered in the following frameless marking:

"Pentru recolte bogate însămânsați la timp" (For rich harvests, sow on time), Apr. 22, 1952, Arad, București.

The above handstamped slogan markings are illustrated here in their actual sizes. Similar slogans were also utilized in duplex mechanical cancellers.





GREECE

Estimate SF

20070 ⊠ 1870 Cover from the French P.O: at Galatz (blue cds) and taxed 45 left to Athens franked 40L + 5L tied cds v. fine and choice — 300

20165 ⊠ 1871 Cover to Athens from Braila franked scarce 50b red and blue Greece – 20L (cut at rt.) added as p.due, fine and rare, reserve — 1200

20174 ⊠ Constantinople : 1870 Cover from Galatz (Roumania) posted unfranked at Constantinople, 5L + 40L adhesives as p. dues on arrival at Corfu, attractive and scarce — 420

AUSTRIAN LEVANT

Bukarest (Rumania)

20502 ⊠ 1864 Cover to Vienna with Lomb. Ven. 10s + 15s tied central BUCAREST/14.6, v. fine to superb — 1500

20503 ⊠ 1864 L–V 5s pair (short perf.) + single with wmk ! + pair on reverse destroyed when opened as scarce 25s reg. frgk. on cover to Vienna tied by two neat strikes of combined oval town + date + registration cancel Mue 6890, fresh and well centred stamps (scarce), fine, cert. Ferchenbauer (Aust. Sp. Cat. AS 12500 + 320 pts) — 1000

20504 ⊠ 1864 Lomb.–Ven. 10s on cover to Vienna tied by weak BUCAREST 12.5, cover date 1867, fine and rare provisional use at a Hungarian Levant P.O., signed Ferchenbauer, Kessler — 1000

20505 ⊠ 1864 L–V 10s + 15s on cover to Vienna tied by central BUCAREST/17.3, few perf. tones, fine, signed Kessler, Ferchenbauer — 800

20506 △ 1864 L–V 15s pair tied to fragment by central BUCAREST/23.10 superb, signed Kessler, Ferchenbauer — 200

20507 ⊠ 1867 Folded cover to Constantinople bearing 1867 15s tied BUCAREST/14.10 cds, superb — 500

Galatz (Rumania)

20545 ⊙ 1864 Lomb.–Ven. 15s pair cpl. wmk 'A' neat, central GALATZ/17:11, fine and scarce, signed Ferchenbauer — 300

Giurgevo (Rumania)

20549 ⊠ 1863 L–V 10s pair + single on cover to Pesth tied by two clear GIURGEVO/21.6 (Mue 60pts, Sass. 10pts), v. fine and rare, cert. Ferchenbauer — 2000

20550 ⊠ 1864 Lom–Ven 5s + 15s on cover to Vienna tied by central GIURGEVO/17.10 (Mue 60pts), 5s one short perf., attractive and scarce — 800

Ibraila (Rumania)

20553 1844 Folded cover in Greek showing an absolutely superb strike dbl. ring D.D:S.G./IBRAILA/P.P. in deep blue, few cover stains, choice and v. rare (Tchil. 1) — 1400

20554 ⊠ 1850 Cover to Constantinople with absolutely superb blue AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO/IBRAILA oval, we cannot imagine a better strike ! — 1000

20555 ⊠ 1864 Cover to trieste franked Lomb. Ven. 15s (perf. 14) pair with choice strike IBRAILA 19 LUG across stamps, v. fine and scarce — 1200

Ploeschti (Rumania)

20576 △ 1864 L–V 10s (2) tied to fragment by slightly central K.K. OEST. F.P. PLOESCHTI/10.8 (Mue 140 pts. Sass. 11 pts), fine and rare, signed Ferchenbauer — 500

20577 ⊠ 1867 Cover to Paris franked Lomb. Ven. 1864 10s + 15s (2) tied PLOJESTIE/2.3 cds in black, red 'P.D.', Hermannstadt and Vienna bs's, v. fine and rare (Tchil.2) — 2500

20578 ⊠ 1867c Cover to Vienna franked Lomb.Ven. 1864 10s pair tied PLOJESTIE/20.7 black cds, superb, rare — 2000

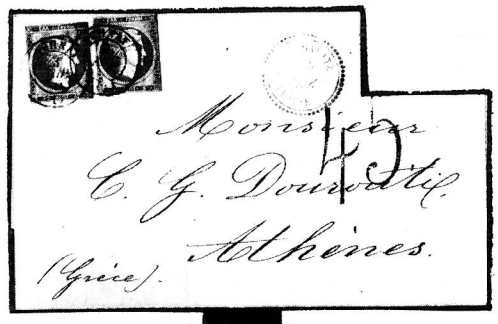
Roman (Rumania)

20585 ⊠ 1857 Stampless registered cover with original enclosure, to Berlin with blue ROMAN/30.10 cds, RECOM. and FRANCO, many other markings back and front, interesting and rare — 1000

Sulina (Dobrudja)

20638 ⊠ 1871 Folded cover to Trieste franked 1867 15s tied SULINA/3.3 single circle, scarce — 400

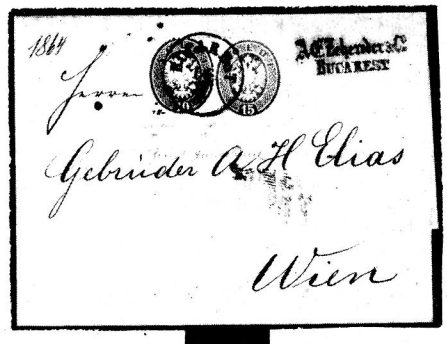
20639 ⊠ 1874 Folded cover to Trieste franked 1867 3s green two pairs + single all cancelled SULINA/24.2.74 single circle (Tchil. 2), fold at single stamp does not detract at all from this splendid piece, very rare — 8000



20070

20165

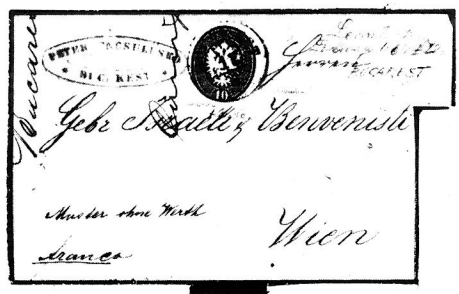
20174



20502

20503

			Estimate SF
		Tultscha (Dobrudja)	
20647	☒	1871 Folded cover to Messina franked 1867 5s + 15s canc. TULTSCHA/23.6 dble rate, black 'P.D:', v. fine and rare	2500
		The Danube Steam Navigation Co.	
20675	☒	PIQUET (Rumania) : 1866 Cover to Braila bearing 17k perf. 9 1/2 tied oval AGENTIE/D.D.G.S./PIQUET in black and 17/8 cds, superb, (Tchil. A) rare	1600
20679	☒	TURNU MAGURELLE (Rumania) : 1868 Cover to Braila bearing 10k lilac tied by blue AGENTIE/D.D.S.G./T. MAGURELLE, fine and v. scarce	1200
		Kustendje — Czernawoda Railway Post	
20682	☒	1867 20pa green together with Lomb. Ven. 15s + Levant 25s tied LLOYD AGENZIE/KUSTENDJE/28.5 on 1869 folded cover from to Loano near Genova. The 20pa paid the local delivery fee for transfer to the Austrian P.O. A marvellous showpiece and one of the gems of this collection,	30000
20683	☒	1867 20pa green (insig. paper ruffles) tied by large letter KUSTENDJE cds on small neat envelope to Czernawoda. This is one of the very few single franked covers known paying the railway jouney only. Very attractive and a great rarity,	10000
20684	☒	1867 20pa deep green pen cancelled just tied on top half of cover headed MEDJIDIE (intermediate station on the Kustendje Czernavoda railway), negligible cover faults, extremely rare if not a unique usage	4000
20685	△	1867 20pa green tied by LLOYD AGENZIE cds on small fragment, fine and extremely rare	800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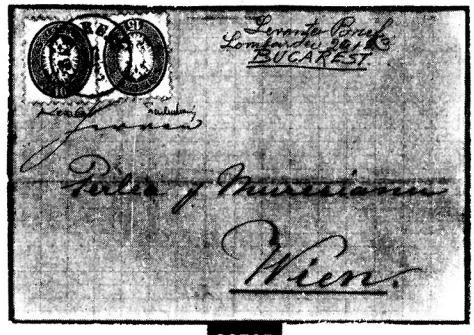
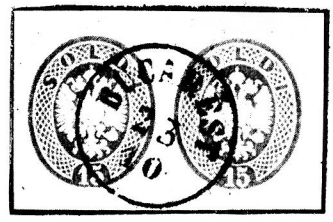

20505

FRENCH LEVANT

Galatz

20815	☒	1863 Lettre pour Constantinople affr. 10c + 40c obl. GC 5085 en bleu, càd GALLATZ MOLDAVIE, TB—superbe	500

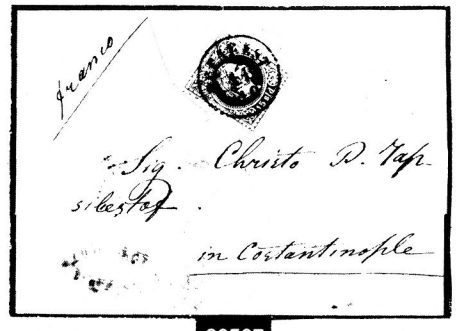

20506

RUSSIAN LEVANT

20901	☒	GALATZ : 1861 Cover to Kischineff with GALATZ/1 MAR 1861 cds backstamped, extremely rare	500

RUMANIA

23649	⊙	1858 Moldavia 80p red weak blue cds, good margins, v. fine, cert. Sorani, reserve	450
23652	☒	1862 3par. on cover good margins, tied by good CALAFATUL cds, v. fine	500
23654	☒	1865 2 and 5 par each with 4 margins on cover, tied by light diamond cancel, v. fine	500
		Ottoman Post Offices	
23665	☒	1879 Cover to Stamboul franked 5pi + 1pi tax stamp tied Arabic dble. circle MACIN, v. fine and v. rare	1000
		Rumanian Levant	
23668	☒	1896 Cover to Bucarest franked 10pa + 20pa + 1pi ovpts tied COSPOLI cds, fine and attractive	250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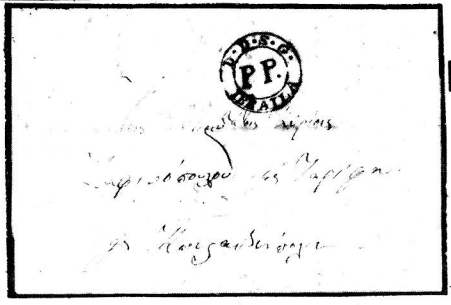
20550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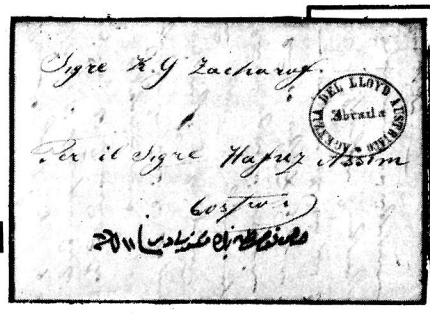
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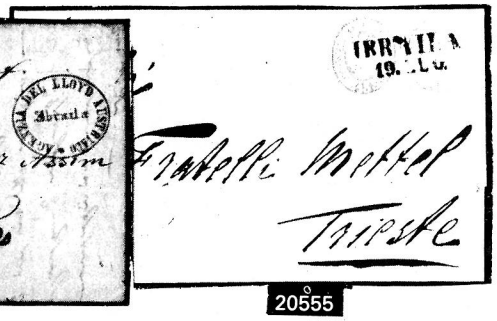
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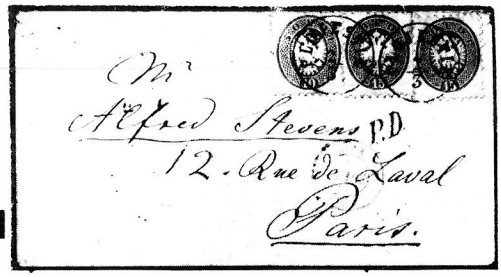

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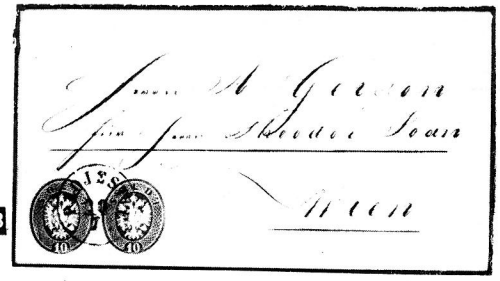

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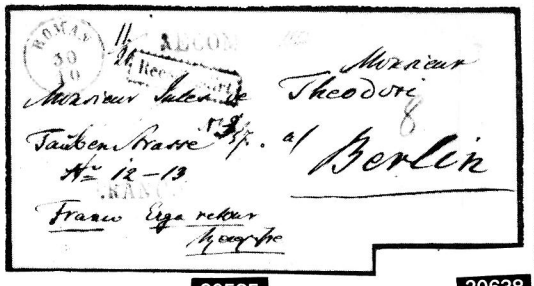

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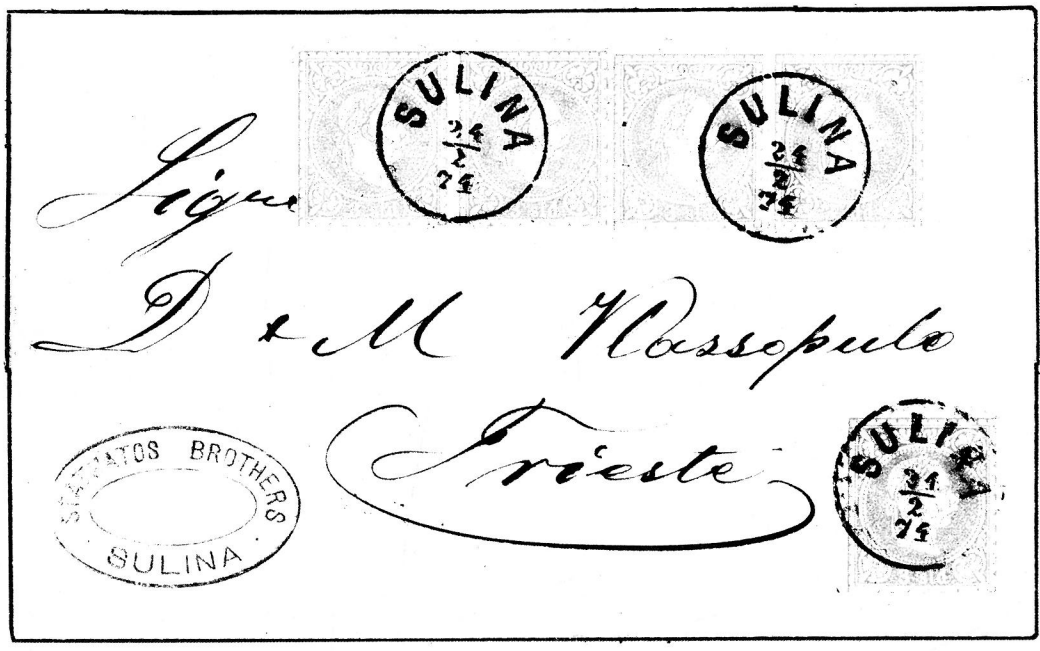

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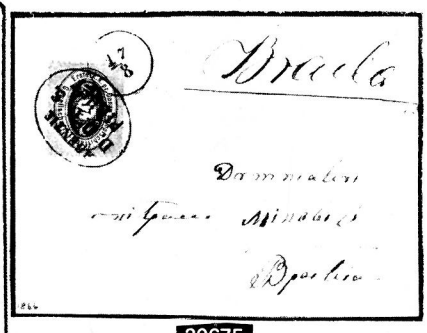

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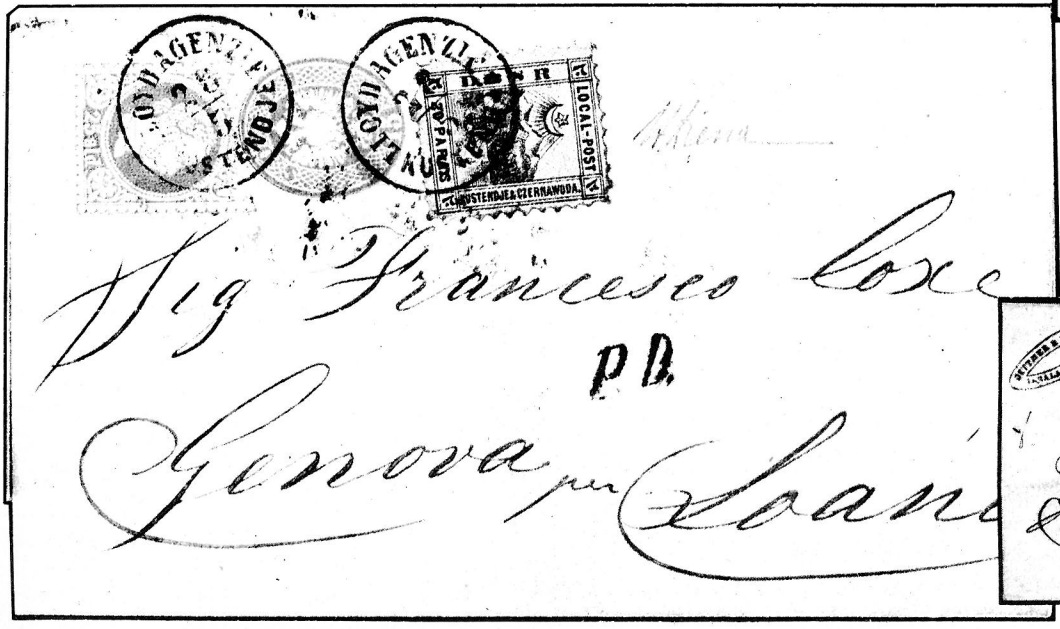

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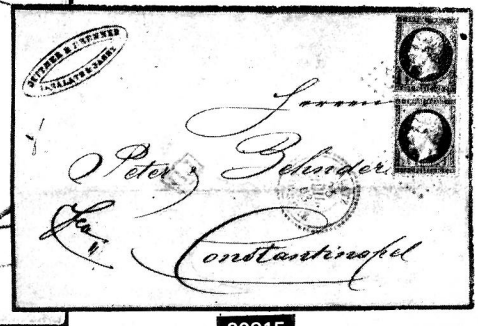

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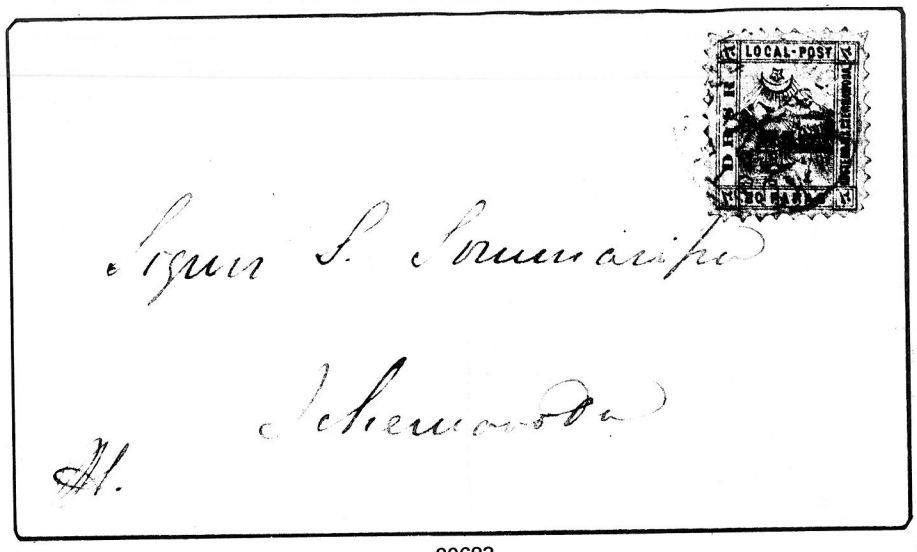

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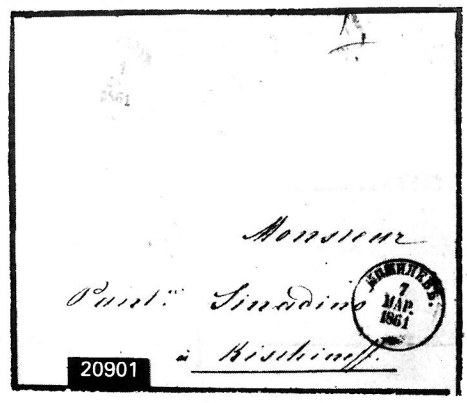

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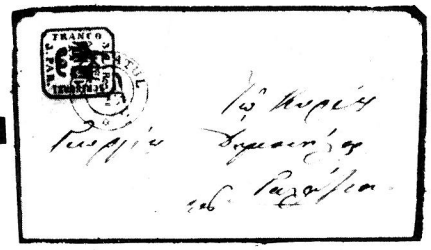

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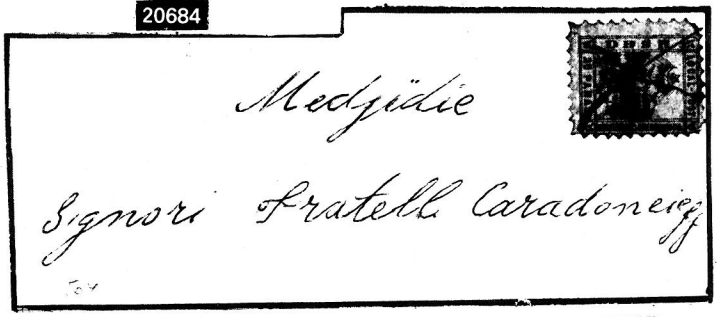

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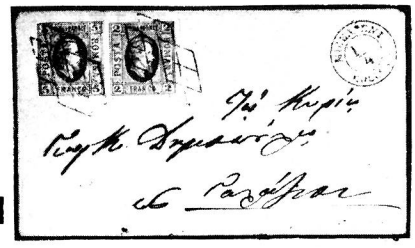

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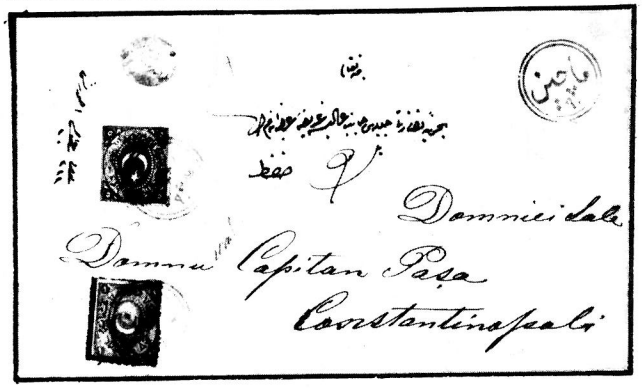

23665

23668

An Interesting Cover

George Pataki

In Romanian Philatelic Studies, no. 3/1979, Gustav Noska published *"The Original and the Counterfeit of the 1913 SCUTIT Stamp"*. Both the originals and the counterfeits of these franchise stamps are scarce but they can be found if one searches hard enough. However, postally used covers bearing this stamp are quite scarce, and therefore we wish to show one to our readers.

The cover was mailed on July 31, 1913, from Jassy, by the organizing committee *"DREPTUL NOSTRU/Mircea si Carol cel Mare"* (Our Right/Mircea and Carol the Great) of the festivities for the unification of Silistra (in Dobrudja) with Romania. It arrived to Bucharest on Aug. 1, 1913.

The color of both the original and the counterfeit is red brown. According to the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974, color proofs in grey olive exist.

Typesetting by: ANDYNE COMPUTERIZED TYPESETTING SERVICE, 118-02 Jamaica Ave., Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11418